FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 APRIL 1983

Inter-Arab Affairs

Summit Postponement—Morocco's King Hassan II postponed the convening of the emergency Arab summit from 16-17 April until the beginning of May to allow further consultations among Arab leaders in light of the latest Middle East developments, Rabat radio announced. Meanwhile, PLO official Hani al-Hasan said the PLO "does not object" to the summit's postponement provided that the majority of Arab countries agree and the delay is only for a few days, WAKH reported citing Al-Hasan's remarks to a WAKH correspondent in Rabat. He affirmed that "minimeetings" will be held if necessary before the summit and if they will ensure the summit's success.

'Arafat, PLO Activities—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in Stockholm that talks between the PLO and Jordan will continue, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. A PLO spokesman stated that the talks will resume in Rabat and added that 'Arafat had sent PLO envoys to the Jordanian and Moroccan monarchs to help prepare for the talks, the radio noted. According to a subsequent Radio Monte Carlo report, 'Arafat announced that the Executive Committee will meet within the next 24 hours to discuss the recent Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations as well as recent statements by the U.S. President and secretary of state. The radio disclosed that Jordanian officials have threatened "to rupture" relations with the PLO and that the Executive Committee will "dwell on" the Jordanian threat.

Husayn Message—Jordan's King Husayn has sent a message to President Reagan explaining the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and Jordan's attitude toward the U.S. peace initiative, the paper AR-RA'Y reported. The king explained that U.S. nonrecognition of the PLO "hindered" an agreement on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian move, the paper noted.

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations—After meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in Jerusalem, presidential envoy Philip Habib flew to Lebanon where he participated in the 13 April tripartite talks in Khaldah, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli officials think Habib's participation in the talks indicates that the United States wishes to intensify efforts to reach an agreement, the radio said. According to Jerusalem television, Habib informed Begin that he intends to conclude the negotiations during his current round of talks. Nevertheless, the gap between Israel and Lebanon over Major Sa'd Haddad's future role remains large, with the Lebanese stating that they will at best be prepared to accept Haddad as a liaison officer in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio noted in a report on the Khaldah talks. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens subsequently declared in a Jerusalem television interview that Israel does not intend to give up its demand that Haddad be appointed commander of the Lebanese Army brigade in southern Lebanon.

Military, Security Situation—Syrian and Israeli forces in Al-Biqa' valley engaged exchanged artillery fire briefly on 13 April, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, an IDF soldier was killed and another was wounded during an ambush in the Ash-Shuf area, Jerusalem radio reported citing the IDF spokesman. An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that in order to prevent ambushes along the coastal road IDF soldiers returning home will henceforth fly back from the newly opened Israeli airbase at Ad-Damur, AFP reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iranians have lost 9,832 soldiers killed and several dozen armored and other vehicles destroyed during their latest offensive, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio. An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio said over 6,400 Iraqis have been killed or wounded in the fighting. Iraqi military commanders refuted Iranian claims that two Iraqi brigades were destroyed in the Maysan sector and said that a "major part" of the three Iranian divisions involved in the offensive have been wiped out, according to INA reports.

In another development Iraqi gunboats and helicopters launched a missile attack against Iran's Ardashir oilfield, setting two oil platforms ablaze, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced. The communique claimed that one Iraqi vessel was destroyed and said the fire on the platforms was soon extinguished. There is "no accurate information" about a new oil slick resulting from the attack, the communique added. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio did not mention any Iraqi attack on Iranian oil wells but reported instead that the Iraqi Navy sank two Iranian vessels attempting to approach the Iraqi coast.

The aim of the Iraqi attacks on the oilfield was to put political pressure on Iran and force it to accept a cease-fire on all fronts, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in an interview carried by Tehran radio. He also reiterated the Iranian objectives in the war: Iranian withdrawal from all Iraqi territory; reparations for war damages; punishment of the aggressor, and the return of homeless Iraqis to Iraq.

Egypt

Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, described his talks with Secretary of State Shultz as "positive and constructive," MENA said. President Husni Mubarak told journalists during his return trip to Cairo from Pakistan that Egypt does not impose Camp David on anyone, but "we expect all parties not to coerce or to ask us to cancel it," according to another MENA report. He declared that Egypt "is not at all in the mood" to risk losing international confidence if it reneges on a commitment which it accepted "through its own free choice."

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia plans to spend 57.7 billion riyals on defense in the coming fiscal year out of total budget allocations of 260 billion riyals, according to a Ministry of Finance and National Economy budget statement carried by SPA. An expected budget deficit of 35 billion riyals will be financed from general reserves, the statement noted. The nonoil gross domestic product grew by over 7 percent in the past fiscal year despite a shortfall of almost 70 billion riyals between actual and planned government revenues caused by the decline in oil exports and production.

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'Arafat Leaves Sweden, To Chair PLO Parley

14 April Departure

LD141019 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Excerpt] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat left Sweden just before 0100. He flew from Arlanda to the Tunisian capital, Tunis, where the PLO headquarters is situated. Before his departure, 'Arafat expressed the hope of Sweden's continued support and said he is convinced that this support was strengthened during his visit.

The 24-hour visit passed without any major incidents, but the police received about 10 bomb threats against the PLO leader himself or against the buildings he visited.

Meeting in Tunis

LD140719 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0520 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Apr (SPA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is due in Tunis today to chair an emergency meeting of the PLO to discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

Before leaving Stockholm for Tunis last night, 'Arafat said that the organization will discuss the latest statements made by the American President and his secretary of state on the Middle East and the final steps that should be taken.

PLO Radio on 'Arafat's Talks in Sweden

JN131754 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has met with Swedish Prime Mminister Olof Palme. The discussions centered on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the situation in the Middle East.

Brother Abu 'Ammar arrived in Stockholm yesterday evening on a visit to Sweden at the invitation of the ruling Socialist Democratic Party. Brother Abu 'Ammar said in Stockholm that talks between the PLO and Jordan will continue. Swedish radio said that Brother Abu 'Ammar had informed his Swedish hosts that he was optimistic about the continuation of Jordanian-Palestinian talks that are aimed at adopting a joint position on the initiatives for a Middle East settlement.

A PLO spokesman has said that Jordanian-Palestinian talks will not stop and that they will be resumed in Rabat. He said that Brother Abu 'Ammar s ent PLO envoys to King Husayn and King Hassan II to help in the preparation of these talks. Moroccan sources said that King Husayn might visit Fes to attend a tripartite conference comprising Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar and the Jordanian and Moroccan kings to discuss various matters before the convening of an emergency Arab summit.

USSR Reportedly Rejects Reagan Mideast Plan

NC140758 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says today that there are semiconfirmed reports that the Soviet Union had sent a memorandum to Yasir 'Arafat indicating that it rejects Reagan's initiative and any solution reached in which it does not participate and that it insists that an international conference be convened in which it will participate to reach a solution on the Middle East question.

The paper adds that at the same time Cairo is well-aware that each of four Palestinian leaderships had received, before the convocation of the Algiers conference, the first installment of a sum of $7 million from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for adopting a stand rejecting the Reagan initiative by all means. They also agreed to receive the last installment after the conference and the issuance of the required resolutions supporting Al-Qadhdhafi's demands.

PLO Radio Reports Statement on Jordan, PLO Talks

JN131817 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Amman—The PLO has stressed the need for dialogue with Jordan to serve the Arab nation's interests and objectives. The PLO expressed its desire to maintain relations between the two sides and to pursue the dialogue between them out of concern for foiling the Zionist enemy's schemes in the occupied West Bank and for the threats posed to the security and sovereignty of the Arab countries, particularly Jordan.

A statement issued by the PLO said that the PLO's stand is always dictated by its commitment to the PNC resolutions, particularly those the PNC adopted during its meeting in Algiers last February, and the Fes summit resolutions.

The PLO said that it would continue to reject Reagan's plan as a sound basis for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue to the Arab-Israeli dispute because this plan disavows the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and calls on the Arab countries to offer concessions at the expense of these rights without securing the minimum guarantee required for regaining the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their right to determine their own fate on their national soil.

The statement said the PLO stresses that any political action for the Palestinian cause as a national cause can only be based on the resolutions of the Arab summits, because such a framework constitutes a guarantee for such action and that this framework is the only one capable of developing the stands of the various countries in the interest of our national rights.

The statement added that the negotiations the PLO recently held in Amman have highlighted the superficiality and hypocrisy ofthe U.S. stand, a matter on which the Palestinian and

Jordanian sides agree. A proof of this is the development of the situation in Lebanon and the occupied West Bank.

PLO's Hani Al-Hasan on Postponed Arab Summit

GF131954 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Rabat, 13 Apr (WAKH)—Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has stressed that there will be no retraction of the idea of holding the Arab summit, although it will not necessarily be held as scheduled.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Rabat, he noted today that some of the Arab countries, including Syria, requested a postponement of the summit for a few days. He pointed out that the PLO does not object to this if the majority of the Arab countries agree and provided the postponement is only for a few days. He continued that Yasir 'Arafat may join the Palestinian delegation which is currently in Morocco after he leaves Sweden because new ideas that are worth consideration have appeared. He said that if it is necessary, minimeetings will be held prior to the summit if they will ensure the success of the expanded summit. The Palestinian goal is to adhere to the Arab framework because it is the only framework that ensures the correct role, and without this framework, any Jordanian-Palestinian move will be incomplete. He emphasized that the PLO and Jordan reached agreement on various matters that concern the two sides.

Hani al-Hasan also discussed the talks he held with Moroccan King Hassan II last night. He said that the talks focused on the Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the situation in the Arab region. He stressed that King Hassan II demonstrated profound understanding of the Palestinian and Jordanian stands toward the issues under discussion and toward the need to ensure work and coordination in order to confront the challenges that are designed to crush the Arab fold. In answer to a question on what the Palestinians will propose if the summit is cancelled, Hani al-Hasan stressed to the Moroccan king that he is prepared to counter any failure or cancellation so that the summit can be held in an atmosphere of understanding and Arab unanimity. Hani al-Hasan also expressed belief that his contacts with King Hassan II paved the way for expanded coordination, "particularly since the idea of a summit is Algerian and the Algerians are playing an important and constructive role in this field." [sentence as received]

The Palestinian official described the latest Jordanian statement as being objective and as expressing Jordan's desire to continue contacts since the Palestinian issue, which concerns the fate of Jordan, is so great that "it require us to take joint action."

Concluding his statement, he noted that he will return to Amman shortly. He said that he will present to King Husayn the latest Palestinian views in order to resume the joint political action to reach solutions that can confront the U.S.-Israeli pressures and the polarization of the Arab stand and, in particular, create a Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian understanding on this political matter that has to availed.

King Husayn Threatens To Rupture Ties With PLO

JN140607 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee is due to hold an important meeting in Tunis today. Reports from Sweden indicated that Yasir 'Arafat left Stockholm for Tunis yesterday to preside over the meeting.

In Stockholm yesterday, 'Arafat announced that the Executive Committee will convene during the next 24 hours to discuss the Jordanian [Government's] statement on the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations, and also to study the recent statements by the U.S. President and the secretary of state.

Information, which has been received from Rabat, indicates that the Jordanian authorities threatened to rupture relations with the PLO and that the PLO Executive Committee's deliberations in Tunis will dwell on the Jordanian threat. According to a Palestinian source in Rabat, King Husayn was due to announce the rupture of relations in his speech this week, but some Arab leaders interfered and managed to persuade him to be patient. The same source added that the U.S. President has asked the Moroccan monarch to use his good offices and conciliate between the Jordanian and Palestinian views regarding the U.S. peace proposals.

PLO'S Abu Iyad Urges Reagan To Recognize PLO

GF131808 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 13 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Responding to the call made by U.S. President Reagan to the Palestinian leaders urging them not to reject his Middle East plan, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, told AL-KHALIJ: "If U.S. President Reagan really wants to solve the Middle East issue, then he has to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination. Moreover, he has to recognize that the Palestinians have one representative, which is the PLO." Abu Iyad stressed that the PLO is a resolute force which neither Reagan nor the others can disregard and that the road for peace cannot be paved without the [PLO'S] total participation.

Abu Iyad called on the Arab countries to be committed to the Fes summit resolutions and stressed the need to tighten ranks in order to stop the deterioration in the situation and in order to prevent the Zionist enemy from claiming new Arab territories.

INA: Klibi Cables Saddam Husayn On War

JN131910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis, 13 Apr (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has denounced the recent Iranian aggression against Iraq and described it as an attempt to invade the territories of an Arab country.

In a cable he sent today to President Saddam Husayn, Klibi expressed indignation at and displeasure with this aggression and Iran's insistence on pursuing its war against Iraq. He said that this aggression supports Israel in its provocations against the Arab nation.

Klibi added that Iran's insistence on pursuing the war despite Iraq's announcement that it is ready to achieve peace harms the cohesion of the Islamic nation to which the two countries belong and exhausts the Arab nation's capabilities at a time when it needs to mobilize its forces, including the Iraqi forces, to confront the Zionist enemy.

Klibi added that Iran's insistence on turning a deaf ear to peace calls is a threat to the stability of the Gulf countries, endangers security in a most vital area of the world and facilitates the infiltration of foreign influences into the region.

Klibi said he hoped that the Iranian leaders would realize the need to resort to international law, respect the Islamic nation's interests, and give priority to the issue of peace and justice in the region.

PLO Radio Criticizes Reagan, Shultz Statements

JN131950 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic
1730 GMT 13 Apr 83

[News analysis]

[Text] The past 24 hours have confirmed the U.S. stands, which are hostile to our Palestinian people and their cause, are considered by most of the world's states and peoples to be the crux of the dispute in this region. President Reagan's and Secretary Shultz's statements have recently disclosed various aspects of the way U.S. politicians think. President Reagan reasserted that his plan regarding the region is based on the Camp David agreements and UN Resolution 242. Meanwhile, and in an attempt to save the Reagan plan after Jordan's announcement that it will not negotiate on behalf of anyone, Shultz asked the Arab countries to withdraw their recognition of the PLO. He held the PLO responsible for a setback to the Reagan plan.

Continuing his instigative campaign against the Palestinian people, Shultz called on the Arab world to reconsider the decision making the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

This U.S. anti-PLO campaign tries to hold the PLO responsible for the failure of the Reagan plan, as well as holding the Arabs partially responsible. Washington, which deals in the region's realities with a lucid stupidity, lacks the logic and the guts to outline the real obstacle to peace in this region. President Reagan's administration, which announced its plan 6 months ago, wanted the Arabs to accept this plan by saying yes even in the absence of any practical attempt to convince the Zionist leaders to at least issue one statement on or adopt a neutral stand on the Reagan plan. The Zionists rejected the plan and responded by intensifying their settlements in the occupied territories.

This is how Washington deals with the state of affairs in the region. This policy, which is biased toward Israel, and the empty U.S. promises to the Arabs were doomed to failure.

Our brothers in Jordan and the Arab world have realized that the U.S. Administration is unwilling to curb Israel and its expansionist policies. The PLO has also become aware of the real intentions of U.S. policy and of its implacable antagonism toward the Palestinian people. So, since the Arab nation has become very certain of complete U.S. bias, of the Reagan administration's failure to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, and of its inability to halt the Zionist settlements in the occupied land, it has decided to continue its moves to fulfill objectives on the basis of the Fes summit resolutions, which contain the essential ingredients for the achievement of a just and durable peace in the region, a peace which will guarantee our people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state.

The U.S. campaign against the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative is also aimed against the entire Arab nation. Shultz says that the Arabs must reorganize themselves and that it is up to them [to decide on the next step]. He adds that his administration will not put pressure on Israel.

The U.S. Administrations holds the sole responsibility because it lacks the guts to force Israel to adhere to the U.S. plan. Shultz's call on the Arab states to withdraw their recognition of the PLO will fall on deaf ears because, in addition to the fraternal Arab states, there are more than 100 friendly states reognizing the PLO.

The question remains: Is the whole world wrong while only the United States and its tool, Israel, are right?

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Foreign Ministers to Meet 16 April

GF141040 Doha QNA in Arabic 0705 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Apr (QNA)—Press reports here said today that an emergency GCC foreign ministerial meeting will be held in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on Saturday, 16 April.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN reported that during this meeting, the GCC foreign ministers will discuss political developments in the region and the oil spill in the Gulf.

KUWAIT

Daily on USSR'S Movement in Middle East

GF131238 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 13 Apr (WAKH)—The newspaper KUWAIT TIMES expressed the belief that the Soviet Union started to knock uponMiddle East doors following the failure of Reagan's peace plan in order to revive the initiative of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev.

The newspaper said it expects Brezhnev's initiative to be more effective in the Middle East. It said that Jordan's withdrawal from negotiations with the PLO may be the starting point for replacing Reagan's plan with Brezhnev's initiative.

It pointed out that the ground work for the movement was laid following Brezhnev's death, attributing this to the visits to Moscow made by King Husayn, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, and the visits made by the Soviet delegation to the Middle East region.

SAUDI ARABIA

Ministry of Finance Issues Budget Statement

LD132032 Riyadh SPA in English 1900 gmt 13 apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 13, SPA—Following is a brief summary of the statement issued by the Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy on the new budget for the fiscal year 1403/1404 (1983-1984):

The Ministry of Finance and National Economy has today issued a statement in which it announced that the new budget for fiscal year 1403/1404 (1983/1984) has been approved by H.M. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the Council of Ministers.

This budget commences as of 1st Rajab, 1403 to 30 Mamad 11,1404, corresponding to April 14, 1983 to April 4, 1984.

The main features of the new budget expounded in the statement are the following:

1. Total government revenues are estimated at S.R. [Saudi Riyals] 225 billion and total expenditures at S.R. 260 billion. The expected deficit of S.R.35 billion will be financed from the general reserves. However, the amount to be drawn from the general reserves will be reduced should revenues exceed what has been estimated in the budget.

2. In comparison with the actual expenditures of the previous budget, appropriations of the new budget have increased by S.R. 20 billion. Actual government expenditures for fiscal year 1402/1403 amounted to S.R.240 billion.

3. It is imperative at this juncture to mention the major achievements of the national economy during the past fiscal year.

A) Revenues:

It was estimated that the revenues would be about S.R.313, 400 million, but actual revenues amounted to only S.R.243,676 million. This was caused by the decline in oil exports and production. The latter reached an average of about 5.6 million barrels per day during the whole year.

B) Expenditures:

Total actual expenditures amounted to S.R.243,652 million which is 14 percent lower than last year's actual expenditures but 6 percent more than the year before.

C) Subsidies:

The government provides direct support in the form of subsidies to the private sector to encourage productive enterprises. Other subsidies are aimed at stabilizing prices of some basic goods and helping the needy citizens. The total amount spent on subsidies amounted to S.R.11,400 million.

The cumulative amount of subsidies provided by the government since the year 1395/1396 is S.R.43,922 million. This amount does not include other indirect governmental support in the form of concessionary loans and low-priced oil inputs for industries in addition to tax exemptions.

D) Domestic lending:

The role of the development funds in encouraging, and financing vital projects is manifested by the size of their loans.

The medium and long-term concessionary loans extended to the private sector in the different economic fields by the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF), the Real Estate Development Fund (REDF), the Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank (SA\B), and the Public Investment Fund (PIF) amounted to S.R.205 billion as of the end of fiscal year 1402/1403. Of the amount committed, more than S.R.154 million have actually been spent.

E) It is clear that this lending policy, in addition to other direct and indirect support of the private sector by the government institutions, have helped the economy to expand and diversify. Available statistics indicate that (SIDF) lending has contributed toward the establishment of more than 880 factories. These loans amounted to S.R.11,716 million, of which S.R.7,705 million has

actually been spent. The power sector was able to benefit from (SIDF) lending program to expand its generating capacity to 7,600 megawatts compared to only 244 megawatts in the year 1390. The total loans committed to the power sector until the end of fiscal year 1402/1403 amounted to S.R.38,659 million while disbursements for the same period amounted to S.R.32,500 million.

The housing construction sector has utilized the capital resources made available by (REDF) and constructed more than 321,320 housing units in all parts of the country. The amount of S.R.64,781 million has been committed, of which S.R.55,386 has actually been spent. This increased the supply of housing leading in turn to the moderation of housing rental and consequently to the deregulation of the housing rental market.

Other lending activities by (SIDF) included loans to establish 39 refrigeration stores valued at S.R.200 million. Loans to construct 84 hotels, 45 hospitals, and several bakeries amounted to S.R.3,426 million of which S.R.2,637 million has actually been spent.

Saudi Arabia is witnessing a unique experiment of agricultural development. Concessionary short and long-term loans from SAAB, benefiting more than 27,400 farmers amounted to S.R.11,846 million with actual disbursements at S.R.8,238 million.

The credit bank which extends soft-credits to needy individuals made loans to more than 135,000 citizens at a cost of S.R.1,432 million.

As for large projects requiring heavy investments, PIF has extended loans valued at S.R.73,095 million with the amount of S.R.46,483 million actually disbursed. The beneficiaries of these loans are Petromin, Sabic, Saudi Arabian Airlines, and other public investment projects.

F) Economic development indicators:

The non-oil gross domestic product is estimated to have grown during fiscal year 1402/1403 at a real growth rate of between 7 percent and 8 percent forecast in the third development plan. Moreover, this attained rate of growth, though less than the previous year growth rate of 11.1 percent, is relatively high by the standards of developed and developing countries. The completion of infrastructural and other major projects contribued to stabilization of the economy's growth rate. This indicates that the Saudi economy is converging into a realistic, stable, and secular growth path. The non-oil GDP deflator (the inflation rate) is estimated to have registered a further decline to below 4 percent during the year compared to 5.5 percent in 1401/1402 and 6.9 percent in 1400/1401. Money supply is estimated to have increased by 16 percent, which together with private capital inflows from abroad, was more than adequate to cover liquidity requirements without generating any inflationary pressure.

However, one of the most important economic indicators is the continuous rise of the non-oil's private sector contribution to the gross domestic products. Estimates indicate that non-oil private sector's share of total real GDP has increased from about 25 percent in 1393/1394 to 45 to 48 percent in 1042/1403, while that of the oil sector has declined from 65 percent to between 30 to 33 percent and government sector share has increased from about 10 to 22 percent. Total imports during 1402/1403 is estimated to have risen by 17 percent to S.R. 139,327 million compared to S.R. 119,290 million in 1401/1402.

4. Budget allocations.

The new budget includes the following appropriations for the major sectors of the economy:

A) Manpower development:

The allocations for this sector in the new budget amounted to S.R. 27,790 million.

B) Social development:

This sector has been appropriated S.R. 13,590 million

C) Infrastructure:

The total appropriations for this sector amounted to S.R. 9,583 million.

D) Municial services:

This sector has been allocated a total of S.R. 19,070 million.

E) Transport and communications:

This sector's appropriations amounted to S.R. 24,950 million.

F) Economic resources:

The total allocation for this sector amounted to S.R. 13,210 million.

G) Domestic subsidies:

They have been allocated a total amount of S.R. 9,020 million.

H) Specialized lending institutions:

The appropriations for these institutions amounted to S.R. 20,000 million.

1403/1404 Budget Appropriations by Sector

Sector	Appropriation
S.R. million	
Defense	57,774
Security	17,959
Manpower development	27,791
Social development	13,591
Transport and communications	24,950
Economic resources	13,209
Infrastructure	9,583
Municipal Service Administration and other government sectors	47,053
Lending institutions	20,000
Domestic subsidies	9,020
	260,000 [total]

King Fahd Reviews Economic Achievements
LD132108 Riyah SPA in English 1927 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 13—(SPA)—A royal decree was issued here today approving the state budget for the coming financial year 1403/1404 (1983/1984).

Revenue was put at SR [Saudi Riyals] 225 billion, while expenditure was estimated at SR 260 billion.

Royal decrees were also issued approving the budgets of municipalities and public establishments.

The monarch had chaired a Cabinet session devoted to debating and approving the state budget.

In a prepared statement, the king reviewed the country's achievements over the past few years and noted the drop in the Kingdom's oil royalities because of the significant decrease of world oil consumption.

The king affirmed that state subsidies [word indistinct] essential commodities would continue and said that about SR150 billion would be spent on development programmes and projects during the new financial year.

He urged the people to make more use of the country's enormous resources and called on the authorities to provide the necessary facilities in this respect.

The country is also determined to continue building its military power and strengthening its national security, the monarch declared.

In unprepared remarks, the king gave some figures to illustrate the progress made over the past few years in the various domains, comparing the situation that prevailed during the first development plan to the existing one.

The king cited as an example expenditure on projects in the first development plan that totalled SR37 billion, saying the figure rose to SR484 billion in the second development plan, while in the first two years of the third development plan the amount reached over SR300 billion.

This brought the total spent on development projects during a span of 12 years to SR824 billion, he said.

The number of plants in 1975 stood at 112 productive factories, but the figure rose to 1,232 last year with a total capital exceeding SR17 billion, he added.

Likewise in 1975, the number of telephone lines stood at 130,000, and this rose to over one million last year, serving over 700,000 subscribers in 217 towns and villages, the king said.

The monarch said that while the country's wheat production in 1975 stood at 3,000 tons, the figure rose to over 300,000 tons last year.

In 1975, production of desalinated water stood at 12 million gallons per day, reaching 86 million gallons per day last year. With the completion of current desalination projects, production would rise to 500 million gallons per day, he added.

Dealing with ports, the king said that in 1975, there were 27 docks, while last year the figure rose to 133 docks.

As to the number of elementary and secondary students, this stood at 1,100,000 in 1975, and the figure rose [to] 1,600,000 last year.

The number of university students totalled 26,000 in 1975 and rose to 63,000 in 1982, the king added.

The king said that while in 1975 the number of clinics totalled 631, the figure rose to 11,079 clinics last year.

In 1975, the national Saudi Airlines had 28 planes which carried 1,800,000 passengers, while in 1982 the airline had 51 planes and carried over ten million passengers.

As to the number of airports, this stood at 18 in 1975, but rose to 29 last year in various parts of the country.

In the field of information, the state established 37 radio transmission stations and ten television relay stations as well as 41 permanent television centers, nine other mobile stations and five (?provincial) centers.

A second broadcasting station, from Jidda, was also inaugurated recently, the monarch said.

The armed forces, he added, were allocated about SR 150 billion covering the various branches.

In his unprepared statement, the king again noted that as regards the question of oil the reservations expressed on the issue were due to the fact that the future was unpredictable.

However, he expressed the hope that things would be better than expected and underlined the importance of the oil wealth for the country.

But he noted that officials were also directing their attention to other resources in the Kingdom as oil was depletable and said that the country had the grace of containing other valuable minerals including those in need by world and local industries.

The king added that it was quite evident for someone who had been away from the country for some years to notice the progress made recently and within a short period.

He stressed that the achievements made were primarily due to the people's adherence to the Islamic creed.

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Defense Minister Meets Fatah's Khalaf

GF131034 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid, the minister of defense, met in his office this morning with Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Palestinian Fatah Central Committee, who is currently visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Anis al-Khatib, PLO representative in the UAE.

Following the meeting, Abu Iyad said he briefed Muhammad ibn Rashid on the recent developments in the Arab situation, particularly with respect to the Palestinian-Jordanian talks and the Jordanian communique issued last Sunday. He said Muhammad ibn Rashid showed a great understanding of the issues discussed and reaffirmed the UAE'S support for the Arab Palestinian people's just cause.

PLO'S Salah Khalaf Leaves UAE 13 Apr

GF131615 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 13 Apr (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, left Dubayy today after concluding a 3-day visit to the UAE, during which he met with President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Mubarak Urges Jordan, PLO Agree on U.S. Plan

NC132348 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egypt's stand on the Palestinian issue is very clear. Egypt believes that the opportunity now exists to solve the issue. This solution requires that Jordan and the PLO declare their agreement to participate in peace talks based on the Reagan plan, particularly since the U.S. President has not hesitated to declare that he adheres to his plan and has pledged to implement its provisions, which will lead to a solution of the issue.

President Mubarak said that Jordan's and the PLO's acceptance will mean that we, the Arabs, have put the ball back in the U.S. and Israeli court.

In a statement to the editors in chief of Egyptian newspapers on the return journey from his Asian tour, which will be published by the Egyptian papers tomorrow, Mubarak said: We have no doubt that the United States will use all possible means to push the peace process forward. Moreover, Israel's friends, including the leaders of the Zionist congress, will adhere to their declared view of supporting the Reagan plan and preferring peace to land. Giving impetus to the negotiations before the end of October, the date of the U.S. elections [campaign's beginning], will also stop the process of changing the character of the land and creating a new fait accompli on it, a process that is now taking place in full swing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

President Mubarak said that if no agreement is reached to join the negotiations and if the efforts to give impetus to the negotiations fail during the current stage, we are afraid that the discussion of the entire Palestinian issue will be postponed until after Novemeber next year or even later until the new U.S. administration takes over power and asserts its priorities.

President Mubarak said: We explained the Egyptian stand to all the leaders of the states we visited. We told them that we will not impose the Camp David agreement on anyone, but we ask the parties concerned to propose any alternative solution that will be acceptable to all the parties and that can be implemented. We are fully prepared to support a solution that will stop the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We explained our stand to the leaders of the states included in the tour. We can say that the Egyptian viewpoint was received with full acceptance and support by these states.

President Mubarak said that while declaring that we do not impose Camp David on anyone, we expect all parties not to coerce us or to ask us to abrogate it. Someone actually came to us and said that the Arabs are ready to give Egypt several billion dollars if it agrees to cancel the second document of the Camp David framework dealing with the solution of the Palestinian issue.

We rejected and will always reject such demands for the following reasons:

—Egypt is not at all in the mood to lose the world's confidence if it reneges on a commitment that it has accepted through its own free choice. This confidence [words indistinct], in addition to other factors, strong political, and economic relations. Everyone knows the potential available to Egypt because of its relations with the United States, the European states, Japan, and the international organizations.

—The question is ultimately not one of Arab funds given in return for certain conditions. If we suppose—a mere hypothesis—that the Arab states agree to give Egypt $50 or $100 billion, these funds must be used either for purchasing weapons or for replacing aid which Egypt is getting from states and international organizations whose confidence in Egypt's opting for peace has prompted them to give this aid.

President Mubarak said: If we discuss this situation calmly, we will find that in the event these billions of dollars become available to us—which is a remote possibility—the United States will definitely refuse to provide us with the weapons we need because we have not adhered to commitments which we have made before the whole world. Moreover, the U.S. Congress will definitely stop the military and economic aid to Egypt. If we resort to the Soviet Union for weapons, it, too, will put forward conditions. As for the other countries that produce weapons, they will not give us our full requirements before receiving the green light from the United States, or at best, they will provide us with quantities and types of weapons that do not give us the full capability to defend ourselves against any foreign danger we could expect following the cancellation of this agreement.

President Mubarak affirmed that Israel will definitely be pleased by such a measure. The cancellation of the Camp David agreement will absolve it of the only commitment it has made for solving the Palestinian issue. Following this cancellation, Israel will be expected to declare the final annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or this will give it the chance to launch an attack on Jordan, Syria, or any other front. Therefore, the demand for the cancellation of the agreement means wrecking all the reconstruction, development, and the deepening of freedom and demcoracy that are taking place in Egypt. Such a measure will destabilize the entire Middle East.

President Mubarak added that even if we do what they are asking us, it might later be said by some Arab parties that by cancelling Camp David, we contributed toward the loss of the last chance to solve the Palestinian issue and thus helped liquidate it.

President Mubarak Says Asian Tour 'Successful'

NC132116 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has described his Asian tour as "successful and very useful." He said that his tour, which took him to China, North Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan, had mainly economic objectives, especially cooperation in the agricultural and technical fields.

In a statement to newspaper editors in chief and MENA during his return journey, President Mubarak said that the Japan visit resulted in the signing of five agreements worth $500 million.

Concerning Egypt's celebrations this month on the anniversary of Sinai's return to Egyptian sovereignty, the president said that

several projects will be opened on this anniversary in the Sinai and in other parts of Egypt, and that the Egyptian Armed Forces will celebrate this dear anniversary.

Ghali Describes Talks With Shultz as Positive

NC132136 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Washington, 13 Apr (MENA)—Following a meeting today with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that he held positive and constructive talks with them. Ghali added that with Shultz he discussed recent developments in the Middle East in the wake of the Jordanian Government's statement.

Ghali said: We are still optimistic, and we believe that we will overcome all difficulties and continue our endeavors for a comprehensive and permanent peace in the Middle East.

Answering journalists' questions, Ghali said that optimism is a quality enjoyed by a good negotiator, that the dialogue must be continued with all the parties, and that through dialogue we can arrive at a solution. We believe that further contacts between the PLO and Jordan will lead to the desired solution.

Ghali said that Egypt supports further discussions between moderate Arabs, Israelis, and Palestinians and that this is the best method for pressure. He also said that time has not yet run out and that the opportunity is still available for a solution.

Premier Speaks at NDP Party Meeting 12 Apr

NC121553 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] At a meeting of the National Democratic Party [NDP] Secretariat General today, Prime Minister and NDP Secretary General Dr. Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that the government continues to honor its pledge to the people to fight and expose corruption, that the citizens are all equal before the law, that the real challenge to the party is to push development forward and to achieve the required standard of performance to which the government has committed itself, and that the party leaders must create vigilance among the citizens so that they will contribute to the attainment of the [development] plan as well as pay the dues imposed on them by the state.

Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif has stated: The Secretariat General discussed the reports on following up the party work in the governorates of Al-Gharbiyah, Aswan,and Suez. The Secretariat General also reviewed the party formations in the governorates and the results of the cultural courses there.

Safwat ash-Sharif added: The Secretariat General then discussed the activities of the women secretariats in governorates and reviewed the projects which the women secretariats have carried out on their own efforts. The Secretariat General also discussed party information in light of the development that has been achieved in the party's three newspapers. It was decided not to publish party newspapers in the governorates unless the Secretariat General is approached first and the number of the editions of the party bulletin is increased.

Safwat ash-Sharif said: The discussions also dealt with the preparations for the local councils' elections on the level of governorates. The Secretariat General recommended that timetables be worked out for preparing the party lists for these elections on the level of villages, towns, and governorates.

PRC Culture Minister Arrives in Cairo 13 Apr

NC131913 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—PRC Culture Minister Zhu Muzhi arrived in Cairo this evening heading a cultural delegation for a week-long visit to Egypt during which he will hold talks with culture, education, and scientific research officials on bolstering the relations between the two countries in these domains.

During his visit the PRC minister will sign with Minister of State for Culture Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan an agreement for cultural cooperation between Egypt and the PRC.

Reportage on Current War Operations 13 April

Communique No 1,060

JN131700 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,060 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 13 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish! [Koranic verse]

Great Iraqi people and sons of our valiant armed forces: During every day that passes in the war of aggression that has been imposed on our lofty country by the vicious Khomeyniite clique, you revive the spirit of your immortal ancestors who brandished the sword and the Koran in defense of right, sovereignty,and dignity. Today you are proceeding in their footsteps, defending your honest humanitarian values, principles, and civilzation, and pursuing your just fight against the forces of evil and aggression which insist on perpetrating evil and expansion.

The results are as follows:

1. Our valiant units in the Maysan operational theater continue to pressure on the enemy forces which are desperately trying to pursue the fighting with continual reinforcements. Our forces have succeeded in inflicting more losses on the enemy forces, whose bodies and destroyed hardware are littering the battlefield. Our valiant units are determined to destroy the enemy forces and transform the ground on which the battles are taking place into a large graveyard for them and their equipment. They are also determined to inflict final defeat on the enemy forces and to decisively settle the battle in our favor. We are confident of achieving this, with God's help. Enemy losses are still being counted as of the issuance of this communiqe and we shall provide you with the details at a later time, God willing.

2. Our valiant navy last night noticed two large enemy naval targets in the northeast of the Arab Gulf which were trying to approach our coasts in the region. Our naval units lay in wait for them. They attacked them with all types of weapons, made direct, accurate hits, and completely destroyed them. The two targets were seen ablaze and sinking in the Arab Gulf waters. All our naval units returned safely and triumphantly to their bases.

3. The valiant eagles of our air force made effective raids all day today against enemy units, positions, and troop concentrations in the areas opposite our forward units' positions in the Maysan operational theater, scoring direct, effective hits and inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment. All our valiant eagles and their planes returned safely and triumphantly to their bases. Today, 74combat missions were carried out.

4. Our helicopters carried out intensive and daring raids all day today against enemy concentrations, tanks, and equipment, scoring accurate hits and inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment. All our helicopters returned safely to their bases. They carried out 41 combat missions.

5. The criminal Khomeyniite clique last night and today continued to shell Basra and Mandali, destroying one house and wounding four civilians in Basra, and wounding four civilians, destroying two houses, and damaging three shops and one restaurant in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 April 1983

9,832 Iranians Killed

JN132131 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Truly strong is the grip and power of thy Lord. [Koranic verse]

Great Iraqi people, the sons of our glorious Arab nation. This is another epic to be added to those of your valiant armed forces, which have heroically excelled in all the battles which they waged against the Iranian enemy, the enemy of God and Islam, nay, the enemy of peace. Their heroic epics have been and continue to be medals of pride and dignity which they have spread over the Iraqi territory. Every inch of territory east of Basra, every valley east of Mandali, and every particle of soil in Ash-Shib and east of Maysan, are witness to this. The eagles of our air force have painfully witnessed the sight of the enemy's dead, whose bodies, scattered all along Iraq's borders in every place that the enemy dared to attack, testify to their courage. Beloved sons of Iraq, your men have fought bravely, with hearts full of faith, with relentless determination, and with an indomitability which defies death. They inflicted on the arrogant and evil enemy thousands of dead and many wounded. The valleys and plains of Iraq's borders in the sector of the IV Army Corps are littered with these bodies.

Known enemy losses since the beginning of the enemy's offensive on the night of 10-11 April, during the battles on 11, 12, and 13 April and as of the issuance of this report, amount to 9,832 killed and 24 tanks, 18 personnel carriers, 28 vehicles of various types, 9 guns of various calibers, and large quantities of medium and light weapons destroyed. The battles are still raging.

Greetings of admiration and respect for all the glorious Iraqi women who gave birth to the staunch fighters who are standing fast on Iraq's borders. Greetings to all the sisters and wives who are backing the fighters and infusing in them a spirit of steadfastness and sacrifice in defense of beloved Iraq and its pure soil. Forward, it is God who grants victory. 14 April 1983.

Commanders Deny Iranian Claims

JN131728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Maysan, Southern Iraq, 13 Apr (INA)—Two Iraqi military commanders have refuted Iranian claims regarding the destruction of two brigades within the sector of the IV Army Corps, which heroically repulsed a new Iranian aggression against the Maysan sector last Sunday.

The commmanders of the 60th and 501st Brigades affirmed that their units are still on the battlefield and that their personnel enjoy high morale.

In an interview with the INA team in a forward combat position, the two commanders explained that the Iranian regime resorted to lies to cover up the setback it sustained, particularly in its recent offensive, and also in a desperate attempt to boost the morale of its forces, which have experienced the taste of humiliation and defeat.

They also said that their forces had raised the slogan, they shall not pass, and had dispersed, with their steadfastness, the enemy waves that participated in the offensive against the sectors where the two brigades are located.

The commander of the 60th Brigade said that this is the fourth time that the Iranian regime has claimed to have destroyed his brigade. He added that the enemy forces attacked the sector in which his brigade is located three times, failed each time, and failed to make progress beyond their own positions as a result of the steadfastness of the fighters of the brigade.

The commander of the 501st Brigade said that his forces managed to foil the enemy forces' offensive and won the battle 9 hours after it began on the night of 10 April. He pointed out that more than three enemy brigades particiapted in the offensive against the sector of his brigade, the majority of which were destroyed.

Nasr Forces Commander Interviewed

JN140716 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi military commander has affirmed that his forces wiped out the major part of the three Iranian divisions that launched the offensive against his forces in the Maysan operational sector.

The commander of the Nasr forces told an INA war correspondent at the front today that the Iranian forces which carried out the offensive against his forces last Sunday, were not able to seize an inch of Iraqi territory. He explained that the enemy's offensive was aimed at achieving a breakthrough in the Nasr's defensive positions and at penetrating deep inside Iraq's territory. He added that the Iraqi soldiers' steadfastness and meticulous execution of the plan have decisively settled the battle in their favor and inflicted grave losses on the enemy, which are estimated at 4,000 dead, opposite the Nasr forces' positions only.

The Iraqi commander stressed that the Nasr brigades are still on the battlefield and fully prepared to check any new aggression.

On the coordination plans between the armed forces and the popular army during the recent battles, the Nasr forces commander said that coordination was quite remarkable through positive and programmed action unprecedented in the history of wars between regular troops and popular militias. He pointed out that captured Iranian officers affirmed that they were convinced that they had entered a losing battle. However, they did say that they had been forcibly sent to the battle.

The Iraqi commander added that the Iraqi soldiers, who were wounded during the battle, refused to be moved to the rear lines and insisted on continuing the fight until the battle was decisively settled.

The Iraqi commander stressed that the valor demonstrated by the Iraqi soldiers in defense of Iraq, and their faith in the justice of their cause, are enough to destroy any Iranian offensive.

Iranian POW's Interviewed

JN131937 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Two captured Iranian army officers have affirmed that they received instructions to cross Iraq's international borders before the latest Iranian attack against the Maysan sector.

In an interview with Baghdad Television, 1st Lieutenant (Ahmad Mohammad Layr) of the 21st division, 3d Brigade, along with three other officers who were captured that day following the Iranian aggression that took place on Sunday evening, said that due to the intensity of the Iraqi forces' fire, they did not achieve anything in the attack.

Infantry 1st Lieutenant Mohammad Hoseyn Rahmani of the 17th detachment of the same division said that he saw large numbers of attacking Iranian forces fall dead or wounded before being surrounded by Iraqi forces, and that the rest of these forces either fled or were captured.

Warrant Officer (Rahman Mekremi) from Mehrabad Air Base, 131st detachment, 1st Brigade, 21st Division, also said that he and others surrendered without resistance to the Iraqi forces after being surrounded on the second day of the attack. Conscript Private (Sa'id Asad Najjar) from the city of Kerman said that he estimated that more than 1,000 fell dead or wounded when the attacking Iranian forces crossed the minefields. Private (Musa 'Ali Bahrani Mohammadi) said that the Iraqi forces' intense fire prevented the Iranian forces from achieving any progress during the attack.

All the POW's said they had received good treatment, thus refuting the Iranian regime's claims. At the same time, they all expressed displeasure with the continued war being waged by the Iranian regime against Iraq. They affirmed that the majority of the Iranian peoples are against this war and that they hoped that the Iranian regime would respond to Iraq's calls for peace.

Baghdad Cites Iranian Resistance on Oil Slick

NC141105 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 14 Apr 83

["Text" of statement issued by the National Resistance Council of Iran on 9 April 1983—place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the pollution of the Gulf waters, the National Resistance Council draws the attention of all international peace-loving circles to the need for the establishment of a just peace between Iran and Iraq. As the sole democratic successor to

Khomeyni's despotic and warmongering regime, the National Resistance Council—which is struggling for the establishment of freedom and peace in Iran—once again draws the attention of all nations, governments, and international peace-loving circles, and especially of all organizations and personalities that support the preservation of the environment throughout the world, to the need to establish a just peace between Iran and Iraq as soon as possible and at a time when all the vast and interlinked dangers stemming from the pollution of the Gulf waters—an outcome of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war—greatly threaten this area's environment.

It is necessary to recall that in its attempt to continue its life, to veil domestic crises in Iran, and especially to hide the daily tortures and executions of democratic forces in Iran, Iran's ruling regime continues to refuse to accept a just peace, insists on continuing its warmongering policy, and is protracting a war which, in addition to the heavy human, economic, and material losses it has inflicted on the Iranian and Iraqi nations, has now gained new regional dimensions and is threatening the environment of all the region's countries with the pollution of the Gulf waters. It is harming, in various ways, all the people in this region.Therefore, it is natural that if the war continues, once again morehuman and material losses and more pollution should be expected.

Meanwhile, it has been proven that Khomeyni's regime will not accept peace unless it is in complete distress, and that the establishment of a just peace depends on the alternative of the National Resistance Council. Therefore, the National Resistance Council draws the attention of all the peace-loving international circles to this council's seven point peace plan for the establishment of a just peace between Iran and Iraq and asks for support in the establishment of a just peace in this part of the world that will guarantee international peace and prevent the spreading of environmental pollution.

[Signed] Mas'ud Rajavi, official in charge of the National Resistance Council

[Dated] 20 Farvardin 1362 [9 April 1983]

Body of PLO's As-Sartawi Arrives in Amman

JN130754 AMMAN Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] A special Moroccan plane carrying the body of the PLO envoy 'Isam as-Sartawi arrived in Amman tonight. Upon leaving, guards in full ceremonial uniform, rendered military honors at a southern Portuguese airport. The transport plane also carried a group of PLO officials.

Meanwhile, receiving Mr As-Sartawi's coffin as it arrived at Amman airport tonight were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zayd deputizing for his majesty the king, a number of Jordanian and Palestinian officials as well as Moroccan ambassador in Amman and Mrs as-Sartawi and her children.

The deceased will be buried tomorrow after prayers at the University of Jordan mosque.

AR-RA'Y: No Changes Expected in Jordan's Policy

JN131111 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Apr 83 p 1

[Report by the Political Affairs Editor]

[Text] There is increasing Arab and international reaction to the [Jordanian] Cabinet's communique, which explained Jordan's position on the recent talks dealing with the joint political movement toward solving the Middle East crisis on the basis of the proposed peace initiatives beginning with Resolutions 242, 238, and 239, and ending with the Fes summit resolutions and U.S. President Reagan's initiative. This reaction ranges from supporting the communique and welcoming it, to opposing it or expressing reservations about it.

Some tried to hold Jordan partly responsible for the results reached while others blamed the PLO and held it responsible for the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks—an outcome which will have a negative impact on the Palestinian issue as well as the Palestinian territory and its inhabitants. However, U.S. President Reagan was more specific when he held "the extremist elements in the PLO" responsible for what has happened.

Domestically, various Jordanian circles welcomed the Cabinet communique, which was clear and frank, and considered it a national document which expressed Jordan's unwavering, principled position on the Palestinian issue and strongly stressed the Jordanian leadership's awareness of its responsible historic role and its true concept of the future of this homeland.

AR-RA'Y contacted several figures and bodies representing various Jordanian circles throughout the kingdom seeking to elicittheir reactions to the Jordanian communique. They were unanimous in asserting the sincerity of the communique and their appreciation of the Jordanian leadership's brave stand on rejecting to negotiate separately or in lieu of anyone—a matter whichemphasizes the continuation of the Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion and the desire to preserve and firmly entrench national unity in a manner that guarantees our country's steadfastness and confrontation of any attempt to undermine it or harm its national unity and security.

On another level, the statements some Jordanian officials made after the communique were received with complete satisfaction by the various Jordanian and Palestinian circles both inside and outside Jordan or in the occupied territories, particularly those statements that stressed the continuation of Jordan's relationship with the PLO on the same existing principles, bases, and within the same framework.

In this regard, based on the officials' statement, AR-RA'Y emphasizes that the state of affairs in Jordan and the occupied areas will remain as it is and there is no truth whatsoever in what is being said about the intention to adopt special measures regarding the bridges [on the Jordan River], the entry of agricultural products [from the West Bank and Gaza] into Jordan, passports, nationality affairs, or any such matters. It also emphasizes that no political, economic, or constitutional changes will take place, but that Jordan will do its best to develop its internal front, build its intrinsic power, and forge its way ahead along the path of progress in the various fields so this country can maintain its ability to confront the challenges with manliness and honorphenationphenationphenationphenationphenation.

More on Jordan Policy

GF131850 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Amman, 13 Apr (WAKH)—A responsible Jordanian source has denied reports that Jordan will take measures to close down the bridges to the occupied West Bank, to prevent the movement of agricultural products from the West Bank to Jordan, or other measures dealing with the passports, nationalities, etc.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Amman today, the source stressed that no political or economic measures will be adopted against Syria. The source affirmed that matters in Jordan or in the occupied territories will remain as they are.

Commenting on the Jordanian statement with regard to Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations, the source stressed that Jordan will do its utmost to reinforce its internal front, build its self-power, and move in the direction of progress in the various fields in order to remain capable of confronting the challenges with honor.

Salim Briefs Al-Jumayyil on Jordan Talks
NC131400 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim briefed President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and then Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at the Republican Palace on his talks with Jordan's King Husayn and his Jordanian counterpart Marwan al-Qasim.

Upon his arrival in Amman yesterday, Minister Salim met with King Husayn. The meeting was cordial and the discussion was lengthy. Minister Salim outlined to the Jordanian king the phases of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations. Salim was briefed on the phases of the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations since last October and the reasons which hindered them. He was also briefed on the developments in the current phase, which the Jordanian ruler considers as a reappraisal of U.S. policy in the area and a Jordanian-Palestinian reappraisal of the phase preparatory to adopting new steps aimed at the salvation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip now that over 50 percent of the West Bank is Israeli-owned.

Such a situation, if it continues, threatens the final loss of the West Bank. Therefore, the present phase is a historic one and it should be benefited from to save the West Bank as no other such opportunity may occur.

During the talks which Minister Salim had in Jordan, King Husayn pointed out that the many views within the Palestinian resistance and the intervention by many parties in the Palestinian-Jordanian negotiations have prevented an agreement on the broad lines and on the detailed objectives of the negotiations despite the good will on both sides. However, the differences in vision and in interpreting the political factors in the area or at the international level caused the negotiations to arrive at this point.

Minister Salim arrived this morning from Amman. At the airport he said the negotiations are proceeding normally. He expressed the hope that they will soon yield positive results

It seems that the new factors resulted in Lebanese-Jordanian agreement that the proposed Arab summit be considered frozen. Among the purposes of calling for a summit was to give a legal character to a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement which the Arabs would have sponsored. The objective is now turned to achieving a reconciliation between the Jordanian and the Palestinian stances. However, the Lebanese and the Jordanian sides think that there are better and more useful means of attaining this goal. Lebanon believes that it is up to the Palestinian resistance and Jordan to adopt new initiatives, especially those that will give more credibility to the Palestinian stand and contribute to saving the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from the fate Israel plans for them.

The Palestinian resistance and Jordan are both directly concerned with the West Bank. The most other Arabs can do is give their support.

The Lebanese and the Jordanian sides agree that the current phase requires a sort of political risk and some sacrifice to save the West Bank. This is a Palestinian responsibility above everything else. The two sides unanimously agree that Lebanon is the key to any solution in the area, that U.S. credibility is being tested in Lebanon, and that the Arab stance's credibility is likewise being tested in Lebanon. Any chance for the success of the U.S. efforts in the area inevitably passes through Lebanon,and any U.S. delay in this direction will pave the way for other parties that are once again strongly seeking to enter the area's crisis.

As-Sayigh Makes Statement on Negotiations Round
NC131447 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1422 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Report by Lebanese Information Ministry Mission in Khaldah—live]

[Text] The tripartite round of negotiations in Khaldah ended a few minutes ago. Here is Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, the official spokesman for the Lebanese Delegation, telling us about the results of today's round:

[Dr as-Sayigh] The unofficial meetings have just ended. They will be resumed tomorrow. It is known that they began this morning in the presence of Ambassador Philip Habib. There was a first reading of the draft agreement submitted by the Lebanese delegation. This draft agreement was studied and discussed. The head of the Lebanese delegation said that this helps us to perceive the problems and to try to solve them. Then several problems impeding an agreement were raised.

During the afternoon session, some measures pertaining to the transitional period were studied. The meetings will be resumed in Khaldah tomorrow. Thank you.

Al-Jumayyil Briefs Cabinet on Negotiations
NC131956 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpt] In the Cabinet session this evening President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil briefed the Cabinet on the negotiations which are taking place to ensure the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. He informed the Cabinet that many obstacles have been ironed out, and that Lebanon has embarked on these negotiations realizing from the beginning the basic difficulties and problems which it will face. His excellency expressed his big hope that an acceleration will take place in the negotiations to overcome the obstacles within the framework of the U.S. initiative in a manner that will safeguard national dignity, sovereignty, and independence.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Minister Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat then reported on the results of the meetings of the ministerial commitee entrusted with dealing with the conditions prevailing in the southern suburb of Beirut, and he praised the Army's enthusiasm in carrying out its tasks, which are not only security but also social for the benefit of the citizens.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that agreement was reached on a plan of action in two parts: the first to be immediately implemented to tackle the urgent basic needs of the area and its residents; the second for implementation according to a long-range program for social and economic development. In addition to the southern suburb, all Lebanese areas experiencing similar situations in the north, Al-Biqa', and in the south will be included in the plan of action.

The Cabinet then discussed agenda and non-agenda topics and adopted appropriate decisions concerning them.

Tripartite Talks Resume in Khaldah 14 April

Spokesman on Progress

NC141104 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1015 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Report by Lebanese Information Ministry mission in Khaldah—live]

[Text] The tripartite negotiations session continues in the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah where the members are studying the supplements to the Lebanese draft in the presence of Ambassador Philip Habib.

On the progress of today's negotiations, the official spokesman for the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, said: Today it can be said that supplements and other documents relating to the draft agreement were discussed. These supplements include many legal and security aspects. I can say that Ambassador Philip Habib intervened in several matters and his interventions were effective, practical, and fair. Dr as-Sayigh added: The meeting was resumed after a separate meeting was held between the head of the Israeli delegation and Ambassador Ibrahim Kharma to study subjects relating to mutual relations. It is known that the military committee has been meeting since this morning to study the subjects relating to security affairs and arrangements.

Asked whether it can be said that progress was achieved in today's negotiations, Dr as-Sayigh said: After reading the draft yesterday it was necessary to begin reading the supplements, which are many and important, and this is being done today.

Asked whether there will be another session this afternoon, Dr as-Sayigh said: I do not believe so. The meeting will end before noon and there will be no meetings this afternoon.

On his part, the official spokesman for the Israeli delegation, Yosi 'Amihud, said that today's meeting dealt with filling some clauses with appropriate words acceptable to all so that one can move from one clause to another. He noted that the provisions of the security arrangements were discussed and pointed out that the remaining points of differences were recorded in the supplements.

30th Round of Talks Ends

NC141130 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1054 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Statement by Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, official spokesman of Lebanese delegation to tripartite talks, at Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah—live]

[Text] At today's meeting and in the presence of Ambassador Philip Habib, the delegations studied the annexes and documents relating to the draft agreement which was read yesterday. These annexes include several legal points relating to the security arrangements. The provisions concerning the peaceful settlement of disputes were widely discussed. The meetings ended today. They will be resumed Tuesday [19 April] in Netanya.

Tuwayni Links Withdrawals to Jordanian-PLO Talks

NC140736 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] In Cairo, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, [Coordinator General of negotiations on withdrawals from Lebanon], regards Israel's refusal to withdraw its forces from Lebanon as one of the reasons preventing Jordan and the Palestinians from joining the comprehensive peace negotiations.

In a statement he made yesterday in Cairo where he is attending an information seminar on the future of information in relations among nations, Tuwayni said: I believe that if the negotiations concerning Lebanon are concluded and Israel withdraws its forces,King Husayn and the Palestinians will find a greater opportunity for joining the peace negotiations.

After saying that he carries an oral message concerning the negotiations from President al-Jumayyil to President Mubarak, Tuwayni added that the attendance of U.S. Presidential envoy to the Middle East Ambassador Philip Habib to the 28th round of negotiations in Netanya the day before yesterday was not because he carried new proposals to end the deadlock but possibly because he wanted to feel the pulse of the meeting or to find out the reasons why more progress in the negotiations has not been achieved. Tuwayni emphasized that any security arrangements in Lebanese territory must not include Israeli participation and pointed out that the discussions do not involve a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon but a security agreement to end the state of war.

He expressed the hope that the United States will exercise greater pressure on Israel.

Israeli POW's Reportedly Held in Al-Biqa'

NC131534 Paris AFP in English 1519 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Khaldah, Lebanon, April 13 (AFP)—Some Israeli prisoners held by the Palestine Liberation Organisation are still in Lebanon despite recent Palestinian claims that they were

transferred to another country, a former Israeli member of Parliament said here today.

Samuel Flatto Sharon, a businessman, told AFP that he had been in Lebanon for the last three days to negotiate the release of the Israeli prisoners.

The Israelis were being held in the Al-Biqa' plain in central Lebanon, he said, denying recent claims by a Palestinian source who said the eight, captured last September, had been transferred to an unspecified Arab country.

Speaking at the Lebanon Beach Hotel here where Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. negotiators have been meeting for talks on troop withdrawals from Lebanon, Mr. Flatto Sharon said he had met Lebanese and Palestinian officials in the Al-Biqa'.

He refused to say whether or not he had visited the prisoners, merely saying: "I met the right people and I am satisfied with the contacts I made during the last three days".

Mr. Flatto Sharon, who left here for Israel aboard an Israeli Air Force helicopter, also refused to specify whether or not he was on an official mission.

Resistance Calls for Confrontation of 'Enemy'

NC131549 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front announced today that it is facing the Zionist military machine with national free will and complete determination and firmness, fully believing in the need to achieve the goal of liberating the land and confronting, with all resources, any attempt for political and social repression as a product of military repression.

In a statement issued today, the front called on the citizens to confront the enemy and respond to the call of duty in the various sectors. The statement affirmed that the operations will continue until victory is achieved by expelling the invaders from Lebanese territory.

The statement recalled the two military operations which were carried out in Sidon on 13 February, in which further losses were inflicted on the ranks of the enemy forces.

In its statement the front pledges to the citizens that it will carry the banner of struggle against the invaders and swears by the blood of the martyrs that it will continue the march until the goal of liberation is achieved.

PDRY'S Ad-Dali Conveys Message, Departs 14 Apr

JN141255 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA)—PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali left Damascus this morning after conveying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad last night. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

KUNA: Khaddam Receives DFLP Delegation 13 Apr

LD131219 Kuwait KUNA in English 1024 GMT 13 apr 83

[Text] Damascsus, April 13 (KUNA)—Head of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) conferred here last night with Syrian deputy premier and foreign minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam on the new developments in the region, a DFLP spokesman said following the meeting.

The meeting, attended by a ranking delegation of DFLP, dealt with the recent Jordanian decision to stop coordination with the PLO on joint political action, the situation in Lebanon, the proposed Arab summit conference, and the Syrian-Palestinian relations, the spokesman added.

The conferees emphasized that the PLO was the sole representative of the Palestinian people and denounced American attempts to manipulate the PLO privilege in this regard, according to the spokesman.

He added that the two sides agreed to increase backing to the Lebanese national forces in their armed and political struggle against the Israeli occupation forces.

The meeting lashed out at endeavors by Washington and Tel Aviv to pressure Lebanon to join the Camp David accords following Egypt's example, he said.

Meanwhile, the two sides, he went on, underlined the need to rectify Syrian-Palestinian relations on the basis ofa common struggle against the Camp David accords and the U.S. Middle East plan, which the two sides saw as American pressure to force the Arab world to give up support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The left-leaning DFLP—one of eight PLO groups—has been a major opponent of the President Reagan peace plan and of the Palestinian-Jordanian drive to jointly enter peace negotiations with Israel on basis of the American blueprint.

The spokesman made it clear that the DFLP delegation stressed in the meeting that an Arab summit scheduled for Morocco later this month was no longer needed in view of attempts to bypass the resolutions of previous Arab summits in favor of the Reagan proposals. He did not elaborate.

The agreement, nevertheless, was later abandoned following a meeting for the PLO leadership in Kuwait last week.

The DFLP underlined the determination of the Palestinian revolution "to counter the new maneuvers against the PLO and the Palestinian people and urged to seriously tackle the Israeli expansionist designs against Syria," according to the spokesman.

The two sides also emphasized the importance of the joint Palestinian-Syrian action in the face of the Israeli threats and an imminent aggression "being prepared by Washington and Tel Aviv," the spokesman concluded.

Commentary Warns of Results of Dealing With U.S.

JN131547 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan's telephone has been ringing continuously since the PLO Executive Committee announced its adherence to the right of the Palestinian people to participate in all negotiations regarding their people, their rights, their land, and their future through their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, and since its refusal to authorize or deputize any side to negotiate on its behalf. The U.S. President's telephone was kept busy contacting some of the region's capitals. Husni Mubarak was even contacted in Islamabad.

Reagan wanted to say that the United States would continue with the so-called peace process despite the setback that it had sustained and the efforts and pressures exerted by several sides to force the PLO to authorize King Husayn to negotiate with the United States and announce the capitulation of the Arabs to the covetous aims of U.S. hegemony and Israeli expansion.

Reagan is asking some Arab rulers to stand alongside the United States against the PLO and the Arab forces, and sides that rejected Camp David and all the plots that resulted from and complemented it. At the head of these forces are the Arab masses, who reject and resist capitulation, and confront its symbols.

It is no surprise that the United States is in a hurry. Recent weeks and months witnessed a great U.S. drive to achieve some of the declared aims of Camp David and the Reagan plan which complements it. This was necessitated by a number of developments in the Arab region, the Arab situation, inter-Arab relations, and the military balance between Syria and the Israeli enemy. These developments convinced many circles that the time no longer favors the United States and Israel and their designs. The time also no longer favors capitulatory and colluding Arab sides that believe it is time to openly announce their serious capitulatory course.

Reagan was not satisfied with personally contacting King Husayn, King Fahd, King Hassan II, and Husni Mubarak, with sending envoys, and with exploiting Qabus'visit to Washington to call upon some Arabs to openly seek shelter under the wings of the U.S. eagle; his Secretary of State even called upon the Arab countries to cancel the Rabat Arab summit resolutions, particularly those regarding recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The new U.S. moves that aim at salvaging what can be salvaged following the setback to U.S. strategic and political designs in the region reveals several facts upon which the U.S. designs are based:

1. The United States is fervently attempting to fragment the Arab ranks and establish a pro-U.S. Arab bloc which accepts its policy and designs to liquidate the Palestinian issue and spread the U.S. umbrella over the region.

2. The United States is trying to liquidate the Palestinian issue and the rights of the Palestinian people by destroying the PLO and by appointing alternative Palestinians as a facade for announcing the process of liquidation.

3. The U.S. is committed to aims that are hostile to the Arabs and which are crystallized in the Camp David accords and Reagan's plan.

4. The U.S. disregards the independence of the Arab countries and their right to adopt resolutions and positions, as proved by Shultz's call to cancel the Rabat resolutions, something that also implies cancelling the Baghdad and Tunis summit resolutions, which rejected Camp David, and the Fes summit resolutions which contain the minimum Arab demands for any resolution.

Reagan may be in a hurry, but things are not progressing as he and those who are trapped in his net might have wished. It is not easy to obliterate the fact that the expansionist Israeli line, which is strongly supported by the United States, threatens the Arab nation and all Arab regimes. This threat makes it very difficult for any Arab ruler to defy the masses of his country and the Arab masses by joining Israel and the United States. As-Sadat tried to do this and everyone knows what happened to him and the fate that awaited him.

The Arab countries are committed to the Rabat, Baghdad, Tunis, and Fes resolutions. Thus, it is difficult for any ruler to disregard the pan-Arab commitment without exposing himself to a serious confrontation with the Arab masses. The disappointing and disgraceful results of cooperating with the United States make any new move to appoint the United States as master and ruler in the region a matter of flagrant treason having serious consequences for its perpetrators. Washington must realize that the age is gone forever in which the rulers of empires and colonialist countries set up and toppled governments in other countries, formed alliances, drew up plans, and determined fates at will.

Daily on Attempts to Implement Reagan's Plan

JN130748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 13 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Similar U.S. Alternatives Are Required," today's AL-BA'TH editorial says: Through the statements issued by the U.S. State Department and the White House, the U.S. Administration expressed its agitation over the results of its hostile plans against the Arab homeland. This agitation was manifested in the U.S. Administration's assertion that it is determined to implement Reagan's plan despite its complete rejection by the Arab forces that have the upper hand in making decisions about the issue.

At a time when the U.S. President expressed optimism over the success of his plan due to some pledges made by some Arab officials, the U.S. Administration stressed that there are various alternatives with which to implement Reagan's plan. Although Reagan's administration did not elaborate on these alternatives, news agencies cited U.S. sources as saying that foremost among these alternatives is pushing Israel toward launching an aggression on Syria. The U.S. sources said they expect a confrontation between Syria and Israel this spring. The U.S. Administration had earlier alluded that Syria is responsible for the failure of its plans in the region.

It is obvious that Reagan's determination to implement his plan by various means stems from the fact that this plan is a background on which the U.S. strategy in the region will be based.

In addition to the threatening tone of the U.S. statements against the Arab forces, which reject the U.S. plan, the U.S. Administration frankly indicated that some Arabs have reassured Reagan that his plan will not be frozen and that a certain action will be undertaken to put it into practice. This simply means that there is a new attempt to bypass the Palestinian people and their legitimate representatives. All the Palestinian revolution factions warned against this attempt after the official Jordanian statement was issued. The revolution factions stressed that the partners to the plot may create alternatives for the PLO from both inside and outside the occupied homeland.

What has happened has in one way or another emphasized the credibility of the firm, principled Syrian stand on the whole issue. Syria has repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that the United States is not searching for a just, lasting peace in the region and that the United States only has in mind the Israeli solution which aims at imposing capitulation and hegemony on all the Arabs. Hence, Syria has always urged a practical, pan-Arab step to confront and completely foil what is taking place.

Despite all that has happened, Syria continues to believe that joint Arab action will be the decisive reply to all enemy plots. If the Arab nation takes matters firmly in hand in order to confront the enemies' plans, it will not only be able to foil these hostile plans, but also score victory over all its enemies. Syria, which is working in this direction, again urges serious Arab action to liberate the territory and regain dignity, and eventually destroy all the alternatives of which both the United States and Israel are dreaming.

In its "Behind the News" corner and under the headline "Habib and the U.S. Preparations," TISHRIN writes: Philip Habib's participation in the negotiations does not at all mean an attempt to put pressure on Israel as the Americans are trying to depict. On the contrary, it means putting pressure on Lebanon to accept the new ideas which are completely harmonious with Israel's expansionist and aggressive ambitions.

Before Habib's current tour began, it was said that he was carrying new ideas. This was also said before his previous tour.

Today he is taking part in the negotiations in an attempt to show what this theatrical step can do toward achieving certain results. If anybody imagines that there is a relationship between the failure of Reagan's plan and Habib's participation in the negotiations, this belief will dissipate because the United States will continue to reap failure as long as its political principles and trends do not take into account the legitimate Arab rights that were usurped and taken by force.

Iran's Velayati Leaves Damascus 13 April

JN131121 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Damascus at 1100 concluding a 2-day visitto Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.
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Velayati made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he affirmed that his visit to Syria was successful and fruitful and that it took place within the framework of the close ties between the Syrian and Iranian peoples. These talks, he said, dealt with the means to strengthen and develop these ties in the interest of the two friendly countries. The talks, he added, were also for the purpose of holding consultations and exchanging viewpoints on the general political developments in the region.

Dr Velayati said that during his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, he presented a detailed report on the latest developments of the war which the Saddam Husayn regime has launched against the Islamic Iranian revolution. He added that he also held talks with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the Middle East situation and bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

Habib Joins Peace Negotiations in Khaldah

Arrival in Beirut

TA131250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpts] After meeting with the prime minister in Jerusalem, Philip Habib flew to Beirut to take part in today's round of talks, the 30th session. The talks opened about an hour ago and our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports from Beirut:

[Begin recording] [Einstein] With unplanned but perfect timing, Philip Habib arrived at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khalda close to 1200. A short time before his arrival, the delegation had been seated at the table for a routine photo, but the act was repeated a few minutes later, this time with Habib at the head of the table next to the stars and stripes flag.

The U.S. envoy arrived at the moment the 30th round of talks between Israel and Lebanon opened. Habib is the hit of the talks since he joined them yesterday in Netanya. The local correspondents descend on him and hang on every word he utters. Habib, in English and Arabic, says I love you all, I am happy every day.

[Einstein] In answer to a question, Habib confirmed that tonight he will meet with President al-Jumayyil. Today, as well, the talks are being held in subcommittees and the spokesman of the Israeli delegation, Avi Pazner, says that the contacts are gaining momentum.

[Pazner] We continue today at an accelerated speed the talks which we began during the week; that is, the meetings are less official and the plenum is not convening. We are convening directly in the working groups and we are now working on the various items of the agreement.

[Einstein] What sort of working groups convened today?

[Pazner] The political work group convened today, which Habib joined after he ended his talks in Jerusalem, and the military work group which discussed the security arrangements. And it is expected that during the day they will sit for a few more hours and try to bring the positions even closer.

[Einstein] In the meantime, we are told by sources in the Israeli delegation that Habib has not yet brought up the issues of his talks this morning in Jerusalem with the prime minister. Lebanese sources say that today as well the disputed subject of Haddad's status will be discussed, but from the Israeli delegation we were told that Haddad has not yet been discussed, and that thetopic will probably not be discussed today. [end recording]

Plans to Conclude Talks

TA131928 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Philip Habib intends to conclude the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations in this round of the talks. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that Habib expressed himself in this spirit during the talks he held with the prime minister today,and with the foreign minister yesterday.

Philip Habib left a 90-minute meeting with the prime minister and the defense and foreign ministers this morning on the way to Khaldah to participate in the talks between the Israeli and Lebanese representatives. In the meeting, the parties discussed the possibilities of overcoming the disagreements on the status of Major Haddad and other disputed issues such as the normalization arrangements and UNIFIL'S status. Habib hopes he will be able to find a formula acceptable to both Israel and Lebanon when he confers with President al-Jumayyil in Beirut this evening.

In his meeting with the prime minister, Habib did not raise the matter of the comprehensive settlement and the Reagan plan. It seems that the U.S. Administration wants an agreement in Lebanon soon, and only then will it renew discussion on the revival of the Reagan plan. Habib will apparently return to Jerusalem on Friday.

Officials Comment

TA131303 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Report by political correspondent David Essing]

[Text] Ambassador Habib met with the three Israeli leaders for one-and-one-half hours before flying off to Lebanon. A brief statement by the prime minister's office said the meeting centered on Lebanon and did not discuss Jordan's refusal to join the peace process.

Israeli officials see the participation of Habib, President Reagan's personal representative, as a wish by the United States to intensify the efforts to reach an agreement with Lebanon. Israeli officials now hope that Habib's weight will lead to an agreement. For some time now, some Israeli leaders have felt that Lebanon's President Amin al-Jumayyil was not winding up an agreement with Israel without prodding from the United States, and unless he could count on strong U.S. support. And, as one Israeli official pointed out today, if Lebanon is left to itself and tries to seek an argument, it will find it hard to withstand Arab pressure. We hope the Americans will persuade the Lebanese to give them their support to conclude an agreement with Israel. And, the official went on to say, a Lebanese agreement based on an Arab consensus is not realistic. Jordan is the latest example of that.

The official repeated the Israeli view that by and large, Israel and Lebanon had already reached agreement on most areas. He could not explain the more pessimistic voices coming from Lebanese spokesmen. The Israeli official praised U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' criticism of the PLO for blocking King Husayn's joining the peace talks. The official said: We are pleased that Secretary Shultz says the PLO should not be regarded as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

Report on 13 April Talks

TA131537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Another round of talks between Israel and Lebanon with the participation of the United States ended in Khaldah a short while ago. In the course of the negotiations today, the issue of Major Sa'd Haddad's status arose again. Israel repeated its demand [derishata] that Haddad play a commanding role in southern Lebanon in the framework of the security arrangements. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports from Khaldah:

[Begin recording] [Einstein] The deliberations which took place in Khaldah today focused on two committees. One committee dealt with the security arrangements, while the other dealt with the traffic of goods between Israel and Lebanon. At the initiative of the Lebanese delegation, the issue of Maj Haddad's status was put on the agenda. The spokesman of the Israeli delegation, Avi Pazner, tells about the position Israel presented on this problem:

[Pazner] Today we discussed the matter of Maj Sa'd Haddad. We again emphasized the importance we attach to his presence in southern Lebanon at the head of his people and in a commanding position, since we see his presence as vital to the framework of the security measures we want adopted in southern Lebanon. This question was discussed today and I think we will discuss it further in the course of the negotiations.

[Einstein] David Kimche, the head of the Israeli delegation, told the Lebanese he does not understand why Lebanon is unwilling to grant Haddad a commanding position in the framework of the Lebanese Army, considering the fact that in the past Haddad and his soldiers were the last barrier to the terrorists who wanted to attack Israel. The Lebanese were firm in their position too, stating they would, at best, be prepared to accept Haddad as a liaison officer. So, the gap on the Haddad issue is still large.

However, the accelerated pace of the negotiations— this was the third round of talks this week—is yielding results.

[Pazner] Certainly. I think this was noted yesterday too, in the meeting with the foreign minister, by Habib,who told Mr Shamir that the new format of the negotiations intensifies the pace. Habib told Shamir he thinks this is efficient, and the foreign minister also noted yesterday his impression that progress has been made in the negotiations in recent days. I think that a part of this achievement should be attributed to the intensive pace of the negotiations currently underway between Israel and Lebanon.

[Einstein] What is your conclusion? Is an agreement near?

[Pazner] I cannot prophesy. We should first finish everything, and as it is said in English, this is a package deal. Before we finish everything we do not have an agreement.

[Einstein] Philip Habib arrived from Jerusalem and went directly to the negotiations hall in Khaldah. The participants in the negotiations noted the contribution of Habib, who played an active role in the talks. Habib will meet President al-Jumayyil this evening and tomorrow he will again take part in the talks in Khaldah. [end recording]

Progress Reported

TA141154 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1120 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Report from Khaldah by Me'ir Einstein—recorded]

[Text] The small print was discussed at Khaldah this morning, the detailed labor involved in the formulation of the agreements. This would seem to be a marginal matter but in fact it is the best proof that the numerous declarations we heard this week from various quarters that progress has been made in the negotiations are well-founded.

The issues on which agreement has been reached are being translated by the advisers and jurists into legal formulations which will stamp the official seal on the agreement.

The framework of the discussions remained similar to that of the last few days. One committee dealt with the security arrangements, and we have been told that this committee reached an understanding about the formulation of various topics. The second committee included Habib, Fattal, and Kimche, who tried to find a common denominator among the disputed points.

Speaking of Habib, when the traditional picture of the delegations around the table was being taken this morning, Habib did not conceal his dissatisfaction with the journalists who wanted him to say something about the deliberations. With nervous moves of his hands, Habib refused to answer, and when the journalists would not let go, Habib directed them to Fattal by saying: Fattal speaks nicely, go to him.

In the debates today, Kimche again appealed to the Lebanese, asking for further explanations on the confiscation of Israeli goods from Lebanese businessmen. Fattal yesterday said that the operation was not intended against Israeli goods but against illegal imports into Lebanon. However, this reply did not satisfy Israel. In response to Kimche's second request, Fattal promised to look into the matter in consultation with the foreign minister.

Another round of talks ended in Khaldah a few minutes ago following 3 hours of deliberations, and the tidings again today was that progress has been made. Here is the spokesman of the Israeli delegation, Yosi 'Amihud.

['Amihud] I would not say that on all the points, but on a series of points discussed today progress has indeed been made. On some points, a solution was even found. Matters related to the formulation of the agreements were also tackled.

[Einstein] The next round of talks will take place next Tuesday in Netanya.

Arens Interviewed on Lebanon, Other Issues
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[Interview with Defense Minister Professor Moshe Arens by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, military correspondent Dan Scemama, and political correspondent Yoram Ronen in the television studio, on the weekly Moqed program]

[Text][Ahime'ir] In the Moqed studio this evening we are hosting Professor Moshe Arens, the defense minister. This is the first interview granted by Professor Arens since he assumed his position about 1 and 1/2 months ago. A few days before the Day of Independence, we will ask the defense minister to give answers about issues and questions that are preoccuping the public these days, just as they have during the whole of last year: the price of the Lebanese war, the state of Israeli-U.S. relations, and of course the new IDF appointments. Political correspondent Yoram Ronen and military correspondent Dan Scemama are in the studio with me.

[Ahime'ir] Professor Arens, could you give the public a picture of the current state of affairs with regard to the negotiations on the release of our prisoners?

[Arens] I would not say this is the right occasion for me to give a picture of the situation. The moment we reach a final result we will surely make this known to everyone. We know who we are dealing with. On the other side, there are elements who do not attribute the same value to human life, to the suffering of families the way we do. Therefore, the contacts are complex and difficult. We expect to reach a result. As you know, there are three groups: There are prisoners in the Syrian Army's hand, there are prisoners in the PLO'S hands, and there are the missing soldiers whose fate we do not know for sure, and we are taking action on this.

[Scemama] Is there progress in the negotiations, Professor Arens?

[Arens] At this stage I would prefer not to add a single word.

[Scemama] With your permission, another question though: Does Israel have confirmation of the reports that the two prisoners held by Ahmad Jibril's organization have been seen?

[Arens] I would still prefer not to add a single word on this. This may not help, and it may do harm.

[Ronen] If this is so, Professor Arens, maybe we should go over to the negotiations with Lebanon. You today met with U.S. envoy Philip Habib and he expressed the assessment that it is possible and that he desires to conclude these long negotiations soon. Are you a party to this assessment?

[Arens] I am surely a party to this desire, and I think the Lebanese also desire this. The Lebanese, we, and the Americans would like to conclude the negotiations, to reach an Israeli-Lebanese agreement which will prepare the ground for the evacuation of all forces, the PLO, the Syrians, and the IDF.

[Ronen] Do you believe it is possible to reach a conclusion [sikum] within a week or 2?

[Arens] Look, here too, it is hard for me to come up with an assessment. It is hard to know. It took more time than estimated at the outset of the negotiations. The Lebanese Government finds itself in a situation which is not at all simple. Anyone who knows the situation in Lebanon a little knows the difficult circumstances under which the Lebanese Government is acting. It is difficult for it to conduct these negotiations. Considerable progress has been made in the negotiations. The very fact of the negotiations is a political achievement for us. Considerable progress has been made in the negotiations in the course of the months which have elapsed. I think that the people who conducted the negotiations on our part have done very good work. There is room today for the hope and expectation that we will reach an agreement.

[Scemama] Professor Arens, you said before that the Americans, we, and the Lebanese want to reach an agreement. Can you say that we and the Americans see eye to eye on this issue of agreement with Lebanon?

[Arens] No. When there are three partners to negotiations, it cannot be expected that all three of them will see eye to eye on the situation, or that even two of the partners will see eye to eye on matters. Each of the partners views the negotiations from his own perspective, and gives priority to the demands [derishot] which are most important for him.

I would say, though, that the threesides have a common operational goal here which is to guarantee such arrangements in southern Lebanon as to ensure that the PLO will not return when the IDF evacuates the area. The Lebanese do not want the PLO to return, the Americans do not want the PLO to return, and certainly we do not want it to return.

[Scemama] When you talk about the arrangements in southern Lebanon, in terms of security can Israel allow the existence of a situation in which Major Haddad will not lead his forces in southern Lebanon? If I am not mistaken the Americans as well as the Lebanese are opposed to this.

[Arens] I would not want—and you surely can understand this—to enter into the details of the negotiations here. However, as you know, our position is that Maj Sa'd Haddad must be the commander of the territorial brigade which will be located in southern Lebanon. I think that every Israeli well understands the reasons for this, and I hope that both the Americans and the Lebanese also understand the reasons for this.

[Scemama] We cannot do without this, in your opinion Mr Arens, can we?

[Arens] At the moment we insist on this demand [derisha] and will continue to do so. Let me explain matters a little. Lebanon is not a country like other countries in the world. We hope it will be. We hope it will be sovereign. At this stage the Lebanese Army is not like any other army in the world, and we hope it will be. At this stage there is room for, or rather it is absolutely necessary to have special, perhaps not so conventional, arrangements

regarding southern Lebanon so as to guarantee this common goal, that the PLO will not be able to return.

[Ronen] Is Haddad a mandatory requirement for us?

[Arens] Look, we are presenting there the positions which seem correct to us, which seem absolutely called for in reality. Haddad is a person with whom we have worked for many years. He has proven his ability and we have full confidence in our ability to cooperate with him. In fact, the basis for those security arrangements we are trying to achieve in southern Lebanon upon the IDF'S exit is cooperation between us and the Lebanese forces, and Haddad can ensure this cooperation.

[Scemama] You earlier said "at this stage." Are you referring to a certain period of time during which Israel will demand [tidrosh] to have Haddad?

[Arens] If you are hinting, or if you had thought that I said this is a demand [derisha] which we posed and which we will give up in due course, the answer to this is certainly negative. We do not intend to give up this demand [derisha].

[Ahime'ir] Professor Arens, I would like to move to another, perhaps secondary, matter regarding the negotiations on southern Lebanon. Your predecessor in the Defense Ministry, Minister Ari'el Sharon, visited southern Lebanon this week. He met with Maj Haddad as well as with IDF officers. At the Cabinet meeting Minister Sharon leveled criticism at the way the negotiations are being conducted, and you are now a member of the negotiating team. Allow me to ask you whether you feel that Minister Sharon may be breathing down your neck, as his successor, as the present defense minister?

[Arens] This was said before I assumed my duties [interrupted]

[Ahime'ir] We have not had the opportunity of asking you this since then.

[Arens] I surely do not feel this. I have appreciation for Ari'el Sharon as a military commander, as a defense minister. We are members of the same party, we sit around the same Cabinet table. I would not say I fully agree with him on every issue, but this is just as I do not fully agree with any other person. I would say however that we have a lot in common, in our political ties as well.

[Ahime'ir] Is your security conception regarding Lebanon identical, different, or similar?

[Arens] I do not think there is a big difference. The two of us, in fact the entire government, and I think the entire Israeli people, want to guarantee such security arrangements in Lebanon as to ensure or rather to decrease to a minimum the danger that the PLO will be able to enter after the IDF leaves.

[Scemama] Do you sometimes consult Ari'el Sharon about things or a policy you want to adopt in Lebanon?

[Arens] I surely consult him. During my first days in this post I sat with him for long hours and discussed matters. I see him frequently around the Cabinet table and consult him, and occasionally also accept his advice.

[Ronen] Professor Arens, you know things, you followed the moves of the war, albeit from a distance, and the question I would like to pose to you is: If you had been the defense minister in June 1982, would you, as defense minister, have ordered the IDF to repeat the same moves as they were indeed carried out?

[Arens] This is a question which nobody could answer, I believe. I imagine this would be so even if you posed the same question to the people who conducted the war, today in retrospect, whether they would have done everything exactly as it was done. After all, there is a process called learning lessons. It can be assumed that if they could do this a second time, they would do it a bit differently, perhaps better. I cannot answer such a question.

[Ronen] Do you think it was indeed necessary to reach West Beirut?

[Arens] I am prepared to answer in general. I think that the operation itself, the Peace for Galilee war, was an inevitable, absolutely necessary military operation. I think that any government in the world which takes a serious view of its responsibility for the security of its citizens would have acted as we did. I think that the goal should have been as it was: To destroy the PLO'S infrastructure. Also, the goal was to lead to a political change, not only to extend the strip which was Haddad's prior to the outbreak of the Peace for Galilee war, but also to lead to a political change which would give us the hope and expectation that henceforth the border dividing us and Lebanon will be one of peace. It seems to me that we are nearing the achievement of this goal.

[Ronen] Have we not deviated a little from the original objectives of the war?

[Arens] If what I have just said, that we are near this objective of a political settlement between us and Lebanon, that the Israeli-Lebanese border will be peaceful in future, is correct, then what we have done was in the correct direction.

[Ahime'ir] It seems to me, Professor Arens, that the political goals emerging in the course of the war were much larger than what you present. The major objective was surely that of securing peace for the Galilee, for northern Galilee. It seems to me now that we are not achieving the entire political goal which you have talked about in general.

[Arens] The major, clear objective of the operation was guaranteeing the welfare of the population in the Galilee. We have achieved this goal.

[Ahime'ir interjects] A peace agreement with Lebanon, though?

[Arens] All the rest, I would say, is tantamount to a bonus. It will be very good if we get it. I think that we are on the road toward attaining these bonuses, perhaps partially in the near future. With greater confidence I would say that in the distant future we will attain this goal as well. However, beyond all this, I think that the Peace for Galilee campaign has brought about a geopolitical

change in the region, has considerably improved the status of the State of Israel in the region, has considerably improved the Western world's status in the region, and has weakened the Soviets in the region. There is a long list of achievements which we might have hardly imagined wehen we set out on this war.

[Ronen] Do you want to say that the campaign has improved our status in the world, including the United States and the hostile public opinion there?

[Arens] I think that the campaign has improved the condition of the State of Israel in the region. We launched the operation after having obtained peace with the largest Arab country, Egypt. We today find ourselves in negotiations over the ultimate achievement of peace with one of the small, but not unimportant Arab countries, Lebanon. I think there are grounds for the expectation that we will be able to proceed even beyond this. If this is correct, then this is a great improvement.

[Scemama] Mr Minister, we are still conducting negotiations the results of which are still unknown, regarding which we still have an argument with the Lebanese and the Americans on minimum arrangements for security in southern Lebanon. An IDF soldier was killed in Lebanon today and another was wounded. The terrorists' activity in Lebanon is increasing, and this is true also for southern Lebanon. So far, since the beginning of the war, 473 soldiers have been killed and 2,605 have been wounded. Is this price not too heavy compared to the outcome of the war as we see it today?

[Arens] I would like to remind you of the situation in which we found ourselves prior to the Peace for Galilee operation. It was not only that a state existed wtihin a state in southern Lebanon, where the PLO reigned, but Beirut was the center of international terrorism which hit us, hit the Lebanese, and hit people all over the world. There was such an arsenal of arms in southern Lebanon, the scope of which we had not even guessed before we entered southern Lebanon. There were there not tens but rather hundreds of artillery pieces, and rocket launchers directed at the north of our country. We could not live with this situation. No country could live with such a situation. We had to change this situation and we did indeed.

[Ronen] Do you think it is possible to prevent the firing of Katyushas from southern Lebanon also after the campaign? After all, attempts are being made, some successful and some not, to position Katyushas in southern Lebanon when the IDF is in the region now.

[Arens] I would not tell or promise the citizens of the state that any border can be hermetically sealed, that terrorist acts can absolutely be prevented, be it on the border with Egypt, Jordan, or Lebanon. It appears to me, though, that what can be said with certainty is that the situation existing before the Peace for Galilee campaign, that terrorist infrastructure, those hundreds of artillery pieces and rocket launchers, will never return.

[Ahime'ir] I would like to move on to another issue connected with the war in Lebanon: The Israeli-U.S. relations. President Reagan has lately defined us as an occupying force in Lebanon. As a result he continues to freeze—this may be tantamount to an embargo—75 F-16's promised to Israel. Their price is, of course,rising as long as the freeze continues. What is your opinion about this Reagan statement, that Israel is an occupying force in Lebanon?

[Arens] I think that the graver statement, from our point of view, is the statement that there will be no supply of F-16's before the IDF leaves Lebanon. I am afraid that this statement is unprecedented in Israeli-U.S. relations for 35 years. To the best of my knowledge, it has not occurred before that a U.S. president said that the extending of aid which the United States undertook to supply us is conditional on any political concessions. Today this may apply to Lebanon and tomorrow it can be in another arena. This is a hard [qasha] statement for us. It compels us to assess the situation as far as our procurement policy is concerned. I think it can safely be said already that such an assessment of the situation will lead us to the conclusion that we must decrease our dependence on the purchase of equipment outside.

[Ahirme'ir] Are you referring to increasing the number of sources for our procurement or to Israeli production on this issue?

[Arens] We will have to survey all the possibilities here. Surely an important part of this is increasing Israeli activity in the sphere of the defense industry. As you know, we have a magnificent defense industry. Many outside Israel can hardly believe our achievements, and we may well have additional achievements.

[Ahime'ir] This conclusion is a result of such a statement by President Reagan, is it not?

[Arens] I think that this statement necessitates soul-searching here.

[Ahime'ir] I would like to move to another question in this sphere. When you entered your present position as defense minister, perhaps under the impression of the previous position as ambassador, you personally made a great effort to rehabilitate or improve Israeli-U.S. relations. It may be mentioned that you directly telephoned U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger in Washington and put information on the lessons of the war at the disposal of the United States. The Americans' reaction, as we earlier said, is an embargo on the F-16's and the statement that the IDF is an occupying force in Lebanon. The personal efforts have not been successful. What has happened here?

[Arens] I can first promise you I will continue to make these efforts since the link between us and the United States, the friendship, the almost alliance, despite all we have just said, is important, is very important for Israel. I think it is also important for the United States. So, if on the issue of the F-16's we have heard harsh remarks, we may hear better tidings in the future. In another field which is important—albeit not as important as the F-16's—the liaison between the U.S. Marines in Beirut and the IDF has witnessed considerable improvement. The sort of incidents which took place in the past and which could very adversely affect Israeli-U.S. relations have not happened. So, in this small sphere, we have reached some improvement. I hope and expect that in other spheres too we will witness this.

[Scemama] Does Mr Weinberger not disappoint you?

[Arens—laughingly] Disappointment is a function of the expectations you entertain, is it not? I would not say I am disappointed but [interrupted]

[Scemama] Did you have no expectations?

[Arens] Regarding Mr Weinberger's policy? I would not say so. Mr Weinberger has, I should say, a rather consistent policy. I do not like it, I never did, but it is consistent and therefore there is no room for disappointment here.

[Ronen] Professor Arens, after King Husayn's announcement on Sunday that he refuses to represent the Palestinians at this point in negotiations, do you think that the Reagan plan has died?

[Arens] I would not say so. President Reagan has already said that he intends to continue his efforts to keep that plan alive [interrupted]

[Ronen] Can it be revived?

[Arens] But our position is clear. We signed an agreement, one which the Americans also signed. That is the Camp David agreement. And that is the basis, the sole basis, for negotiations toward peace in the region.

[Ronen] In other words, you do not see much chance of reviving that plan in this or that version?

[Arens] I think that from the beginning there was not much chance—I would say that there was no chance—of starting negotiations on the basis of the plan as it was presented by the U.S. President, because that plan deviated from the Camp David accords. And the Israeli Government declared so immediately after the plan was presented.

[Ronen] Professor Arens, King Husayn has declared that one of the reasons he did not enter the negotiations was Israel's announcement that it refuses to freeze the settlements. The question begs, why not test the king and freeze the settlements for 2 or 3 months, and make that gesture?

[Arens] Look, that king, you know, is one of the world's last absolute monarchs. That king has already had many tests, and I regret to say that he has failed in those tests. You know that he ruled Judaea and Samaria for 19 years. There were no settlements—that is to say, they destroyed all the settlements that were there, including the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem. They killed most of the people, the Jews, and expelled the rest. They did not join negotiations over peace. On the contrary, in June 1967 that king tried to invade Israel with his army. Therefore the degree of his dedication to peace in the region, the degree of his willingness to compromise with us, is known I think. His record is not good.

[Scemama] Professor, with your permission I would like to discuss the appointments affair in the IDF leadership. You have chosen, or recommended to the Cabinet, that Major General Moshe Levi serve as the next chief of staff. What were your considerations for preferring Maj Gen Levi for the post of chief of staff over Maj Gen Ben-Gal and Shomron?

[Arens] From the point of view of speculation and the curiosity everyone has, this is surely a very interesting question. It would be very interesting if I were to tell you before all the citizens of Israel who was good and who was better than the others, and what are this or the other man's qualities. However, it would not be wise [interrupted]

[Scemama] It seems that it is clear for you that Moshe Levi is the best?

[Arens] Defintely. There is no doubt about it.

[Ahime'ir] Why?

[Arens] I just said now that it would not be right or wise to enumerate the qualities of this man in comparison with the other man's and explain why the list of one man's qualities outweighs the other's. It is a fact that the bottom line, from the point of view of my assessment as well as from that of the government's, is that Maj Gen Moshe Levi is the most suitable man for the post of chief of staff, and he will be the IDF'S next chief of staff.

[Ahime'ir] When will you end the affair of the IDF leadership appointments? When will they be wound up?

[Arens] Appointments in the IDF are not an affair, but an ongoing affair [interrupted]

[Scemama] Today it seems like an affair, when one reads the press.

[Arens] I am very sorry, and I would prefer it if you too did not use that word. It neither suits the IDF nor the processes in the IDF.

[Ahim'ir] When will the series of appointments in the IDF be completed?

[Arens] First of all, as you certainly know, Ya'aqov, when a new chief of staff takes up his post, the IDF'S entire senior command is not changed all at once, nor should it be. In the present situation a few appointments are necessary.

[Scemama] The deputy chief of staff and the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch, of course?

[Arens] Yes, the deputy chief of staff and the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch. There are certainly many who would already like to know who they will be. Perhaps there are those who are a bit impatient and nervous, and would therefore like us to act more quickly. But I hope you will agree with me that the correct deliberation and the right decision are much more important here than haste and quickness. We are working methodically in this matter and,I will permit myself to say, thoroughly. For every post we have made a list of a number of candidates—not just one—and we are examining each and every one of them. We are interviewing people, and I would say that there is every reason

to think that the appointments, when we announce them, will be good ones.

[Ronen] You have said, or repeatedly said that you would also like Maj Gen Ben-Gal and Shomron to stay in the IDF. Are they candidates for either of the two positions you mentioned, those of deputy chief of staff and the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch?

[Arens] I have stated that I would like Maj Gen Ben-Gal and Shomron to stay in the IDF. You know that the tradition in the IDF is actually different, that the generals who compete for the chief of staff's position usually leave the army if they are not chosen. It is said that this is the IDF'S secret weapon—the freshness, the young age of the officers [interrupted]

[Ahime'ir] By the way, is that a good tradition?

[Arens] I am just about to say what I think. On the other hand, when men with such talents and experience leave, the IDF loses something. We must find the happy medium between freshness and youthfulness on the one hand, and keeping the talents and experience on the other. I think that those two generals should stay in the IDF and that they should stay in senior posts. I have spoken to both of them more than once. I have beseeched them to stay. I have offered them senior posts. The final outcome is not yet known. I can tell you that if it emerges that one or both of them leave the IDF—and I hope that they stay—but if that is what happens, it will be because of a decision by one or both of them.

[Scemama] Mr Minister, I know that both of them want to stay in the IDF, and that they want to stay in the IDF in senior posts. They regarded themselves as candidates for the position of chief of staff, and it seems that we are now witnessing, in the matter of the appointments, a dispute between you and the designated chief of staff. Do you perhaps think that you should force your opinion on Maj Gen Levi?

[Arens] First of all, if what you said is true, it is good news: that both of them want to stay in the IDF. I hope your information is truly correct.

[Scemama] The information is correct, Mr Minister.

[Arens] I hope that is true. I also have information, as you of course understand. I maintain direct contact with those two men [interrupted]

[Scemama] And they do not want to stay in the IDF?

[Arens] I said that I hoped that your information is correct. It may be more up to date—maybe you spoke to them this evening, and you have new information. I want them to stay. The problem is not one of compulsion. The appointments are made through consultation with the chief of staff. However, I have determined the policy that I want them to stay if possible, and that they stay in senior positions. The chief of staff accepts, and must accept, this policy.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Defense Minister, I would like to ask you about the statements by the outgoing chief of staff, Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan. Who did not hear those statements? He compared the Arabs to doped cockroaches scurrying about inside a bottle; he called a Knesset member a liar. Do you regard those statements with gravity?

[Arens] Ya'aqov, Lieutenant General Eytan is now finishing his post as chief of staff. I think—as far as I know—that he was chief of staff longer than any other chief of staff. I think that he was a good chief of staff, a very good one. History may judge that he was the best chief of staff we ever had. He has tremendous achievements to his credit. And I think it would be inappropriate at the end of his service, during his last days as chief of staff, to deal with criticism of this or some other thing he said.

[Scemama] Raful [Eytan's nickname], Mr Minister, during his last days as chief of staff, has been making numerous statements also on political matters, and therefore this question is being asked. It has been especially conspicuous of late [interrupted]

[Arens] I understood the reason for that question, and nevertheless I repeat that involved is a man with tremendous achievements to his credit. I think that the entire nation of Isarel—those who support his political positions and those who oppose them—sees the man as a national hero. Every Israeli citizen, Likud supporters, Alignment supporters—which party they support is unimportant—owes him thanks, esteem, and admiration. And let us end the matter with that.

[Ronen] But in principle, Professor Arens, are you party to the criticism that has been leveled more than once against Lt Gen Eytan that he has made far too many political pronouncements, something which almost no chief of staff did before him?

[Arens] Yoram, with all due respect to you and your question, my opinion—and you can take it or leave it—is that it is neither wise nor proper, nor even fair, during the last days of his post to deal with criticism of him. He does not deserve it.

[Scemama] Professor Arens, then perhaps rather than talk about Lt Gen Eytan, let us talk about the future chief of staff, Moshe Levi. Would you agree and accept that he makes political pronouncements?

[Arens] I cannot give you a blanket answer. Of course, we want to separate the army as much as possible from political matters. It is not always possible. The position of the chief of staff in the IDF in Israel is unlike that of the chief of staff in any other democratic country, as far as I know, because he has a position and authority. He must make appearances, he cannot keep silent, he must express himself, and therefore it is inevitable that here and there he will also express himself on political matters. Therefore, I cannot make a blanket statement, yes or no.

[Scemama] Regarding another matter, you greatly reduced the national defense unit which was nurtured by Minister Ari'el Sharon. Do you think that there is room for establishing a national security council in Israel?

[Arens] I think so, and when I was a Knesset member—I once was, I am not now—when I was a Knesset member of the

opposition, a long long time ago, I made a motion to the agenda to establish a national security council.

[Ronen] Attached to the prime minister's office?

[Arens] In fact, I think that our government structure is ready for this, because we have the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. Thus, from the point of view of the political representatives, the structure exists. What is needed—and I favor this—is to set up in conjunction with the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs a headquarters of professionals who could prepare the discussions in that committee.

[Scemama] Have you proposed this matter already? Is there something being done in this regard?

[Arens] I told you that I proposed it when I was a Knesset member of the opposition [interrupted]

[Scemama] In the opposition.

[Arens] I have not forgotten the matter.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, how do you imagine the composition of such a council?

[Arens] As I just said, Ya'aqov, the composition of the political representatives is already determined: that is the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. This, I would say, is the equivalent of the National Security Council such as it exists in the United States. The professional part should, in my view, be made up of persons who could work in the disciplines in which they are qualified in the matter of national security; that is to say, purely the security, military, intelligence, and foreign policy matters.

[Ahime'ir] I would like to move on to another matter. The former defense minister, Mr Sharon, devoted much effort to cultivating foreign ties, of course, against the background of providing security assistance, in Africa and Central America. He visited Honduras. Do you, with respect to your working style or your interests, intend to follow in this path?

[Arens] At present, I have no plan to visit Honduras, if that is the meaning of your question.

[Ahime'ir] Nor in Africa?

[Arens] I have no such plans now. As is known, because of Israel's situation, here and there we have ties with countries in the security sphere while we do not have political ties with them. Therefore, the defense establishemnt has a role to play here. However, I have no doubt that in every political matter, Israel's foreign minister must sit at the wheel.

[Ronen] Professor Arens, over the past year we have been witness to a situation that is called a cold peace in our relations with Egypt. Does this situation reinforce your opposition to the Camp David accords, which you voted against?

[Arens] Look, that is water that has passed under the bridge. We have paid the ticket price. As you know, I think that the price was too high. However, we paid the ticket price, and now we must do our utmost to reach the final destination, which is relations of peace — stable, full, thorough, not cold — between Israel and Egypt. And I will do everything that I can to help reach that goal.

[Ronen] But do you still think that the Camp David accords should have been voted against?

[Arens] Look, I think that today that subject is theoretical and hypothetical, and it will not benefit anyone if I answer that question.

[Ahime'ir] Mr Minister, we are approaching the end of this interview. I would like to ask you a personal question —with regard to you, not me, of course. You entered your post about 1 and 1/2 months ago. Can you tell us what such a post, which fell upon you quite unexpectedly, does to a person?

[Arens] It is a very difficult post. I am certainly not telling you anything new when I tell you that. It is a job involving what is in fact endless work—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But perhaps, more serious than everything else—and I told President Reagan this when I took my leave of him—I told him that I am about to be the defense minister of a defense establishment much smaller than the U.S. one. I gave him the example of our defense budget, which is $5 billion, while the U.S. defense budget is $250 billion. He interrupted me and said: A billion dollars is a lot of money. However, I told him that the Israeli defense minister constantly carries concern for human life, the lives of soldiers and citizens. And it is the luck of the United States and many other states today that their defense ministers do not have that concern. That is a very heavy concern.

[Ahime'ir] In conclusion, 5 days from now we will celebrate Independence Day in the country. I would like to ask you, in your opinion, what will Israel's most important security problem be during the next year of independence?

[Arens] We are already experienced enough not to make forecasts in that sphere—we know that that is dangerous. I would say that now we have a problem, room for concern, regarding the Syrians.

[Ahime'ir] Is there room for concern?

[Arens] There is room for concern.

[Scemama] Do you expect a possible war with the Syrians?

[Arens] I did not say that. Room for concern does not mean expectation of war. But we must be prepared for the possibility of hostile activity by them. We must be alert. We must be fully vigilant. The introduction of SAM-5'S by the Soviets into Egypt [interrupted]

[Scemama] Syria.

[Arens] Into Syria, pardon me, does not help stabilize the situation. It makes it unstable, and therefore we must be prepared. That is also one of our concerns.

[Ahime'ir] In other words, the gist of what you are saying is that the most serious problem is the Soviet intervention in Syria and the fear of hostile activity?

[Arens] The problem begins with Syria. Syria has been a hostile country for many years now. To a large extent one may say that it is a country whose policy toward Israel is wild. It is difficult to predict its policy. The Russian intervention in Syria today is liable—I do not know—to make the Syrians think perhaps that the SAM-5 umbrella enables them to do certain things. That umbrella may have holes without the Syrians' knowledge. The Syrians may think they can drag the Russians into some intervention by their making a hostile or violent initiative against us. Those are all possibilities. I do not say that it will happen, I hope that it does not. We are definitely not interested in any violence on that front. We want peace with Syria. But we must also be prepared for war.

Ben-Me'ir on Failure of Reagan Initiative

TA131058 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
13 Apr 83 p 21

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir is one of the people in Jerusalem who was not surprised by the failure of President Reagan's initiative for Husayn's incorporation into the political process.

"We must not rejoice and be happy about the nonincorporation, but neither should we be disappointed. Even if Husayn were to set out, with the PLO'S blessing, nothing would come of it," MK Ben-Yehuda says. The deputy foreign minister's conclusion is: "The United States should learn a lesson from its failure and return to the only path on which it is possible to advance in the political process: that of Camp David. As a first step, the United States must influence Egypt to resume the autonomy negotiations."

"Israel must preserve restraint in its reaction to the U.S. failure and work for the resumption of a dialogue with the administration, in the hope that the latter will learn a lesson from the latest events."

"The United States is not admitting its failure and is making a mistake in that it still thinks that courting the PLO is the right path. The U.S. spokesmen are wrong when they say that the extremists influenced the process. Extremism is the very essence of the PLO. The U.S. administration must recognize the fact that Israel will not have any exchange of words with that organization, which is built on terrorism."

"At the same time, I estimate that this is not the end of the chapter of all the maneuvers and moves in the Arab world. We must continue to be alert, because the last word on President Reagan's initiative has not yet been said," Ben-Me'ir says.

IDF Fired Upon in Two Lebanon Incidents

Grenade Attack Near 'Ammiq

TA132107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Two RPG'S were fired this evening toward an IDF position near the village of 'Ammiq in the eastern sector of Lebanon. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the RPG'S were apparently fired by a terrorist squad which came from the Syrian-controlled area in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. The IDF position returned the fire.

Soldier Killed in Ambush

TA131904 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] An IDF soldier was killed in the Ash-Shuf mountains area in Lebanon in the afternoon by fire directed at him from an ambush. Another soldier was wounded. The family of the killed soldier has been informed.

The IDF spokesman announced that light arms fire was directed from an ambush toward two IDF vehicles in the Dayr al-Qamar area. Fire was returned and the IDF forces have begun combing the area.

New Settlements to Be Established In Samaria

TA140526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Two new settlements will soon be established in Samaria between Bet Arye and Ari'el in the Dayr Qal'ah area. This has been learned by our correspondent on settlement affairs, Shalom Oren, who also adds that the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs will ratify the Cabinet's decision to civilianize eight settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and in the southern Hebron Mount next Tuesday. The establishment of five of these eight settlements has begin already this year.

Shamir: Pressure Won't Bring Settlements Freeze

TA141004 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew
14 Apr 83 p 9

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by unidentified correspondent—date and place not given]

[Text] "No pressure from any quarter will prevent us from settling in our land. This is the people's desire and a historical necessity. The freeze imposed by the United States on the delivery of the F-16's will not lead to a freeze of the Israeli people's settlements in their homeland," Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in an interview with YOMAN HASHAVU'A.

The foreign minister added: "The freeze on the delivery of aircraft promised to Israel is part of the U.S. policy of courting

King Husayn and the Arab leaders into joining its peace initiative. This goal has not been attained. If the Americans withhold aircraft from Israel, that will weaken its defensive capability."

Question: Will Israel give in because of this and impose a freeze on settlements?

Answer: Experience shows that Israel does not give in to pressure on vital issues pertaining to its security and existence. Let us assume that the argument over the status of Judaea, Samaria,and Gaza—according to the Camp David accords—is legitimate. However, our right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el is beyond any argument. Through its demand to freeze settlements, the United States is only hindering the progress of the peace process.

Question: Some claim that 'Isam as-Sartawi was murdered due to his tendency to recognize Israel's existence. If the PLO were one day to declare that it recognizes Israel's existence [sentence incomplete as published]

Answer: That will merely be a matter of tactics, only a delusion. The PLO will not go back on its basic goal: to prevent any independent Jewish stronghold in the Middle East and to scratch Israel off the map. If the PLO makes such a declaration in the future, the only purpose will be to delude and cheat, to make it easier for those who seek Israel's weakening.

What has been happening recently only proves that any peace initiative whose moves depend on 'Arafat's veto is from the outset doomed to failure and an attempt to raise the PLO'S prestige. Any strengthening of this organization only drives away the chances for peace in the region and enhances the Soviet aim of preventing peace in the Middle East.

Question: How do you explain Husayn's latest declaration?

Answer: His declaration proves how justified our basic assumption had been, that it is impossible to achieve peace by relying on a general Arab consensus. That is a mere illusion and a waste of time. Peace can only be reached with one Arab country at a time. However, the eyes of all the Arab countries are directed at the PLO, to receive its approval, and none of them is ready to take the risk without such an approval.

U.S. Military Delegation Studying IDF Data

TA140716 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 83 p 2

[Report by the defense affairs correspondent]

[Text] A delegation of American military officials is currently in Israel doing intensive research on the IDF's performance during the Lebanese war.

The group comprises Air Force and ground forces personnel, who are conducting talks with their counterparts in the IDF. They are the first of "several dozen" delegations expected here in coming months.

The Americans arrived after Defence Minister Moshe Arens last month gave his approval for a complete and candid revelation by Israel of performance and operational data on the war. This despite the American suspension of the signing of a formal agreement for the exchange of information.

The Americans refused to ratify the agreement on the grounds that Israel had placed too many restrictions on the dissemination of the information and was demanding too much in return.

Arens gave his approval in one of several steps he initiated to end the tense relations between the US.. Administration and Israel, generated to a large degree by the style of his predecessor Ari'el Sharon.

Israel is anxiously awaiting an American decision on the supplyof F-16 fighters to the Israel Air Force, which was suspended last year, and of technological and possibly financial help in building the Lavi fighter.

The exchange of information, it is hoped here, will unfreeze both these items, which Arens considers extremely important if Israel is to maintain its deterrent capability.

What bothers Israeli defence officials, however, is that much of the operational data may ultimately be translated into improving American weapons systems destined for export to Arab countries.

Israel is also worried about the dissemination of this information among America's NATO allies, claiming that NATO is notorious for not being able to keep very much secret.

High on the U.S. research agenda is details on how Israel took out the missile sites, and the performance of Syrian Soviet-supplied armour.

Peres on Socialist International Achievements

TA131328 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Labor opposition leader Shim'on Peres says that after his talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonazalez, it is only a matter of time before the two countries establish full diplomatic relations. Tzvi Greenberg reports from Tel Aviv.

[Begin recording][Greenberg] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres returned from the Socialist International Congress satisfied with the Israeli delegation's achievements there. At a press conference in Tel Aviv today, he told reporters that the congress was one of the few international groups where Israel is able to maintain the strong position it has established in the past. He pointed out that increased participation from South American, African,and Asian delegations has changed the makeup of the congress to the point when many individual delegations were less sympathetic to Israel's positions that was the congress as a whole. But, he added, that in general the congress was a success from the Israeli delegation's standpoint.

[Peres] Well, we went to this congress with great worries. We felt that this may be the last congress which will esteem— support

more or less—our position. On the two major issues—one, not to give the PLO a formal status in the Socialist International, we won completely. On the resolutions, we gained a great deal of support, but not entirely the whole support which we had wanted.

[Greenberg] Peres added that he does not believe that the congress is moving toward inevitable recognition of the PLO as a member delegation, and pointed out that 8 of the 11 resolutions suggested by the Israeli delegation were passed, thus proving Israel's continuing influence at the congress. These resolutions included a demand for a commission of inquiry to be established by the Lebanese authorities to look into the massacres at Sabra and Shatila, a rejection of formal relations between the congress and the PLO, a condemnation of international terror, and a call for direct negotiations between all nations involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Boycott of Warsaw Ceremony Threatened
TA140639 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The heads of the Israeli delegation to the ceremonies to mark the Warsaw Ghetto uprising will today demand that the Polish authorities not allow a PLO representative to lay a wreath at the foot of the monument in memory of the fallen in the uprising, or else they will boycott the state ceremony and will hold a separate ceremony of solidarity.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that this decision was made last night in Jerusalem. The proposal to return the members of the delegation currently staying in Poland and to put off the departure of other members was rejected.

Our correspondent reports that Yad Vashem Director Yitzhaq Arad last night said in Warsaw that as far as is known, PLO representatives would not be attending the ceremony. Arad conferred yesterday with Archbishop Glemp, the head of the Catholic Church, and later all the members of the Israeli delegation met with the Polish deputy president at the presidential palace.

The representatives of four U.S. Jewish organizations have announced that if Poland does not within 2 days declare that it will ban PLO representatives from laying a wreath they will order all Jews not to attend the ceremony. The representatives conferred with an attache at the Polish Embassy in Washington. The attache suggested a compromise according to which the PLO representatives would lay the wreath at some other time but his proposal was rejected.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Chairs FLN Political Bureau Meeting

LD132221 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The FLN Party Central Committee Political Bureau met this morning at the presidential headquarters under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party.

The Political Bureau reviewed a number of national issues, including the main points of the agenda for the ninth Central Committee session. It was decided to convene this session in the last week of May.

The Political Bureau studied the situation in the Arab Maghreb. It recorded with great satisfaction the increasing vitality characterizing relations between the countries of the area resulting from the Algerian initiatives and the intensive contacts made by the president of the republic with tne leaderships of the fraternal peoples.

In this connection, the Political Bureau expreses its conviction that the spirit of responsible fraternity and the confidence which exist among brothers will help to remove the barriers which, in the last few years, hampered the march of the Arab Maghreb toward building unity and realizing all the aspirations of its peoples for stability, progress, and prosperity.

Within the framework of the decisions already made concerning the Arab Maghreb, the FLN Party will take part in celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the historic 1958 meeting in Tangier.

The Political Bureau also reviewed the situaiton in the Arab East in light of developments and the consultations of the president of the republic with the Arab leaders. In this connection, the Political Bureau reaffirmed the unchanging stands of Algeria and Algeria's loyalty to its principles and commitments toward fateful issues of the Arab nation.

The Political Bureau touched on the general situation in the Mediterranean region and the development of cooperation among the states of the area. It brought to prominence the keen desire of Algeria to intensify disinterested cooperation; Algeria respects the choice and mutual interests, and responds to the aspirations of the nations of the Mediterranean for security, peace, and progress.

Tunisian Minister Delivers Message to Bendjedid

LD131533 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Summary] The Tunisian Foreign Minister, Mr Caid es-Sebsi arrived in Algiers today carrying a message from President Bourguiba to President Chadli Bendjedid. He will discuss with Algerian officials bilateral relations and international issues of common interest.

Foreign Minister Ends Visit to Algeria

LD132218 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Beji Caid es-Sebsi, member of the Political Bureau of the Tunisian Socialist Dustur Party and minister of foreign affairs, left Algiers this afternoon after paying a short visit during which he was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, in the presence of Dr Ahmad Talib al-Ibrahimi and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Before his departure from Algiers the Tunisian foreign minister made a statement in which he said that he was highly honored by being received by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party. He pointed out that he delivered to the head of state a message entrusted to him by President Habib Bourguiba.

The Tunisian foreign minister affirmed that (?his meeting) with the president gave him the opportunity to discuss the situation in the Arab (?Maghreb) countries, and especially the recent developments in the Arab East.

He explained that Brother President Chadli Bendjedid quite clearly reflected a political will displayed by all Algerian officials. He noted that the same will is manifested by Tunisian officials.

LIBYA

Oil Secretary Ends Visit to USSR 12 April

LD132019 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 30, Apr 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY— Mr Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, the secretary of oil, yesterday ended a visit to the Soviet Union during which he held talks with the Soviet minister of foreign trade centered on furthering bilateral cooperation.

Armed Forces Chief Receives Greek Delegation

LD12452 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, has received the director of the Greek naval staff college and the accompanying delegation.

During this meeting the major stressed the need to exchange and to continue the visits to strengthen the friendship linking the Libyan Arab people and the Greek people, and expressed his welcome of this visit. He explained to the Greek militiary delegation about the Jamahiriyah military establishment, saying: We have chosen to build our might through the revolution to bolster our freedom. The Libyan Arab people, through their men and women, are training in arms, are capable of proving their existence, and are ready to defend their territory and honor and to defend freedom-loving people that are being (?oppressed) and dominated by imperialist power struck by power madness.

He added: We refuse to be browbeaten or to surrender to America because we are revolutionaries; we have rebelled for the sake of freedom and have expelled the foreign bases that were on our territory. We decided to live in dignity or die with honor.

Maj al-Humaydi pointed to the presence of foreign bases on the territory of many countries. The peoples of these countries are robbed of their will and lack of freedom. [Words indistinct] some units of the U.S. fleet set sail to provoke the Libyan Arab people from some of these bases in the countries bordering the Mediterranean in an endeavor by the United States to create a spirit of hostility between the Libyan Arab people and these peoples. He added: We salute the enormous popular awakening of some of the peoples who are demanding the eviction of the American bases from their territories. This worldwide popular hostility against U.S. military presence is nothing but proof of America's [word indistinct] the hatred of the peoples of the world for it.

The major also said: The provocative U.S. attempts against our people in the Mediterranean and the attempts at economic and scientific blockade only increase our conviction that we are proceeding on the correct path. Let the terrorists learn that the Gulf of Sidra is death, because it is part of the land mass of the Libyan Arab territory, and that we are ready for confrontation. He went on: We are against any capitulation attempts by reactionary Arab countries on Arab territory. This does not weaken our resolve because we are determined to confront the enemy anywhere to back freedom and free people and to face the Zionist death train backed by the United States.

SUDAN

Numayri Statements at Monrovia Press Conference

JN141148 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Apr (SUNA)—At a press conference just before his departure from Monrovia yesterday, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri said the coming African summit conference should be held without preconditions and all problems should be placed before the leaders so they could issue their decisions on them.

Numayri explained that the convocation of the summit at the OAU headquarters would be an opportunity for the leaders to elect a chairman of the organization. He said that the prevailing practice is to elect the head of the state hosting the summit as chairman, but the practice will not apply this time, because the summit will be held at the headquarters.

President Numayri said that what happened in Tripoli recently during the conference on the Chadian and Polisario problems was natural, but certain countries led by Libya wanted to exploit these problems to create a rift in African unity. This was why Sudan refused to attend the Tripoli conference, Numayri said. President Numayri asserted that Libya is a threat not only to Sudan, but to the whole African Continent.

Asked if there is any intention to amend the OAU charter, President Numayri explained that the charter has often been the cause for the failure of holding conferences and committee meetings.

President Numayri said: We in Sudan have been aware of this situation for a long time and have submitted a proposal to the 1979 Monrovia conference to amend the charter. The president expressed the belief that a committee had been appointed to revise the charter and to submit its recommendations to an OAU summit.

President Numayri added that all African countries agree that the charter needs to be amended because of its many loopholes. The president pointed out that the charter had been drawn up for the small number of African states who had attained their independence at the time. Their number now is greater than before, he said.

Regarding the Palestinian-Jordanian talks, the president said: I cannot say that the talks have failed. They were only suspended. Failure means the talks were successful, or were believed to be successful, then something happened and they failed.

President Numayri added: I believe there was an attempt to formulate a common strategy between the PLO and Jordan and that the talks were suspended when they stumbled to avoid a rift, which we in the Arab countries fear most because this has been the policy of the Arab countries for a long time now.

President Numayri referred to the wisdom of suspending the talks at a certain point to avert a rift between the Palestinians and Jordanians.

President Numayri pointed out that his visit to Liberia wasaimed at enhancing the relations between Sudan and Liberia, adding that this is part of Sudan's foreign policy which is based on establishing strong relations with all countries, particularly the Arab and African countries so that they would not feel unsupported and turn to the big powers.

In his press conference, President Numayri noted with satisfaction the serious work and positive developments being witnessed by Liberia, adding that the Liberian leader frankly expressed his desire to benefit from Sudanese expertise as much as possible. The Liberian president expressed admiration with the Sudanese revolution and policy and that he too wants to pursue Sudan's policy of self-reliance, self-confidence, and discipline.

On his meeting in Monrovia with the President Vieira of Guinea-Bissau, President Numayri said that President Vieira said he does not want to fall easy prey to various countries,especially after gaining the independence for which Guinea-bissau has long struggled.

Within the context of his press conference, President Numayri affirmed that the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are strong and that nothing has so far disturbed these relations. He added that the countries agreed not to permit any country to exploit their land to disturb their existing good relations. President Numayri asserted that Ethiopia is currently endeavoring to eliminate Sudan's worries. He pointed out that Sudan has cautioned Ethiopia to the effect that Libya, by virtue of its relationship with

Ethiopia, is trying to use Ethiopian land, without Ethiopia's knowledge, to harm Sudan. He disclosed that the Ethiopians have often prevented [the Libyan regime] from doing so.

Commenting on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's decision to cast his vote in the presidential referendum, President Numayri said that President Mubarak's decision and that of his wife to cast their votes in the Sudanese presidential referendum is unequivocal evidence that the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are fully determined to unify their efforts and principles of action, stressing that the two countries are tied by lasting relations and that neither the presidents nor the governments can force a rift between Sudan and Egypt.

Within the context of his press conference,President Numayri said: I personally participated in electing President Mubarak and this technically was the first practical move in the history of the Nile Valley. He added that this served as a thrust to the integration process between the two countries and enabled us to forge ahead toward successfully attaining integration, praise be to God.

Continuing, President Numayri said that President Mubarak's participation in the referendum would perhaps give stronger momentum toward integration, particularly since all we have agreed upon is still on paper and needs to be implemented through serious work. He added that the Nile Valley parliament will meet next month to pass legislative resolutions to which both countries will be committed.

Asked his feelings as an ordinary citizen toward his re-election for the third term, his excellency said that the referendum process is part of the national action and political move.

President Numayri said that the tremendous support expressed by Sudanese citizens in many cities and provinces for the referendum before casting their votes is irrefutable evidence that the Sudanese citizens have begun to feel their right to citizenship and safeguarding this right. He said that this referendum is unprecedented because it is not confined to one person but to aprogram.

Continuing his remarks on the referendum, President Numayri said: We must not worry if this citizen casts his vote or if that citizen does not. What is important is that we have objective programs and institutions, stressing that these programs will be implemented so long as there are citizens rallying around and supporting them.

President Numayri Returns Home 14 April

JN141136 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Apr (SUNA)—President Ja'far Numayri and the accompanying delegation returned here last night after a 4-day official visit to Liberia at the invitation of Liberian President Samuel Doe to attend the celebrations of the third anniversary of Libera's Revolution Day. The invitation was extended to his excellency during the Liberian president's visit to Sudan last March. His excellency made a stopover on his way home at Lagos Airport where he held talks with Nigerian President Shehu Shagari.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Cited on Visit to Libya

PM131601 Tunis L'ACTION in French 9 Apr 83 p 4

[Unattributed report: "President Bourguiba's Message to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi returned to Tunis from Tripoli yesterday evening on a special aircraft placed at his disposal by the Libyan authorities at the end of a working visit which had lasted 2 days and during which he had met with ColonelMu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to whom he had conveyed a message from President Bourguiba.

At the end of his meeting with Col al-Qadhdhafi—a meeting that lasted around 1 hour—Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi made the following statement: "My visit to the sister Jamahiriya stems from the concern which the supreme combatant [President Bourguiba] has always shown for continuity of contact, consultation, and dialogue between us and our brothers, particularly in Libya. The latest meetings at Arab Maghreb-scale herald the opening of broad prospects for joint action at Maghreb-level; President Habib Bourguiba has done me the honor of entrusting me with a message on that subject for his Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

"My meeting with Col al-Qadhdhafi was characterized by frankness and fraterntiy. It concerned bilateral relations and the situation in the Maghreb region, the Arab and African causes, and the current international situation.

"In addition to strengthening fraternal ties between our two peoples and the relations of cooperation between our two countries, this visit also gave us the opportunity to inform our brothers in the Jamahriya of the results of the recent visit to Tunisia of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and to study with them the new prospects it opens up, especially since some of those results go beyond the bilateral framework and have a Maghreb dimension in the broadest sense.

"At bilateral level we hope this visit to Libya will help consolidate the efforts recently made to step up contacts between the two countries' officials and to convene several joint commissions for various sectors with the aim of taking new positive steps toward complete harmony and complementarity at all levels."

It will be recalled that Mr Beji Caid es-Sebsi had arrived in Banghazi the day before yesterday where he was welcomed by Libyan Secretary for Foreign Liaison 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan Secretary for Agrarian Reform Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, and Mohamed Jenifane, Tunisia's top representative in Tripoli, and by Tunisian Consul in Banghzi Hassen Jemnir.

During this visit the foreign minister had talks with his Libyan counterpart which concerned bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab Maghreb, Arab and African questions, and the current international situation.

Foreign Minister Denies Wish To Isolate Libya
LD131858 Kuwait KUNA in English 1736 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis, April 13 (KUNA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi Wednesday refused to affirm or deny the convening of an emergency Arab summit conference at the present time but reiterated his country's participation [words indistinct] preparations are made.

He told KUNA in an exclusive interview that the Arab meeting "in itself is a satisfactory sign and [words indistinct] exchanging opinions of condition [word indistinct] preparations were made to ensure a successful outcome."

The minister said that King Hassan II of Morocco's efforts to rally support for the summit were widely backed by a number of Arab leaders. [Words indistinct] that the current Arab situation requires consultation and unity of purpose.

Es-Sebsi had conveyed a message from President Bourguiba to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi the contents of which were not officially disclosed.

Asked on [words indistinct] Al-Qadhdhafi and whether it was in line with Tunisia's desire not to isolate Tripoli from current contacts between Rabat, Algiers and Tunis to establish the greater Maghreb, he replied that Libya "is a sisterly Arab country and we always like to hold fraternal dialogue with our neighbors and exchange views and visits either in Morocco, Libya or Algeria, and the same will be applied to our brothers in Mauritania."

He reviewed in this respect Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's (?visit) to Tunis last month and the outcome of mutual agreements and discussions over the greater [words indistinct] necessary to continue talks with countries concerned with the issue namely in Morocco, Libya and Mauritania, Es-Sebsi said, adding that contacts followed the visit with King Hassan (?and) his counterparts in Mauritania and Libya.

Tunis follows a stable policy which does not isolate any part from the dialogue since all concerned parties have equal rights in building up the greater Maghreb, he asserted. Es-Sebsi denied that the Tunisian wish not to isolate Libya coincided with a similar trend by France. He elaborated "I [words indistinct] such a French attitude but I would like to affirm that Tunis is an independent and sovereign state and that France has nothing to do with this matter."

"We and the Libyans are maintaining brotherly relations and are in joint cooperation and do not meet with the mediation of a third party and we (in Tunisia) refuse to be the political tool for others. Hence I affirm that Tunisian-Libyan contacts were void of such meanings or background," the Tunisian chief diplomat emphasized. He expressed the belief that there was a joint Libyan-Tunisian desire for cooperation.

ETHIOPIA

Somalia Accused of Preparing 'Imminent Attack'

EA131832 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening disclosed that it has concrete evidence that Somalia is preparing to make an open attack against revolutionary Ethiopia. The ministry noted that the bellicose Mogadishu regime has been preparing its forces close to the Ethiopian border and is accumulating heavy modern arms for an imminent attack.

The officials of the Mogadishu regime are trumpeting their false propaganda that Ethiopia is going to invade Somalia. This is only to hide their clearly known intentions and policy of expansion and their plans to invade, the ministry said.

The ministry noted that it is hardly necessary to remind the world that it was Somalia that invaded Ethiopia and penetrated 700 km into the internationally recognized territory of Ethiopia, and recalled that in 1977 it was Somalia that was spreading the same false propaganda that Ethiopia was about to invade Somalia before itself invading Ethiopia.

The Foreign Ministry disclosed that the Mogadishu regime, which is the puppet of imperialism, has been amassing extensive weaponry since the 1977-78 defeat, and noted that such false propaganda is a way of acquiring additional modern arms from countries such as America, with which to invade Ethiopia.

In its statement, the Foreign Ministry affirmed its desire to emphasize to the world community that Somalia has carried out constant attacks againt Ethiopia since that defeat.

Charges of Impending Invasion of Somalia Countered

NC141043 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 14 Apr 83

[By Seyoum Ayele]

[Text] Addis Ababa, April 14 (AFP)—Ethiopia last night countered repeated charges by Mogadishu in recent days that Addis Ababa was planning to invade Somalia by saying it had "concrete evidence" that the situation was in fact the other way round.

"Conclusive evidence has now emerged that Somalia is just on the verge of launching yet another act of brazen aggression against Ethiopia", the Foreign Ministry said in a press statement.

Somalia had intensified "boundary violations" over the last three months and had been infiltrating advance squads into Ethiopian territory, the statement said, citing captured Somali soldiers from recent engagements. It said that a Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Abdullahi Hussein, a commander of the 36th Somali Brigade, had surrendered to Ethiopian forces on April 7 rather than take part in an impending invasion of Ethiopia. (The rebel Somali Salvation Democratic Front, which is based in Ethiopia, reported last week that the same officer had defected to the rebels during fighting in the Mudug border region of central Somalia.)

The colonel had given "additional proof" of the fresh aggression drawn up by the "gendarme of imperialism in Mogadishu", the statement said.

It added that Somali squads massed along Ethiopia's border states were armed with weaponry recently acquired by Mogadishu from the (?United States) and included 105 mm howitzer guns, M47 tanks and TOW missiles.

Ethiopia had "concrete evidence from various reliable sources" that Somali Defence Minister Mohamed Ali Samantar had "lately" visited the war front and military camps and "given orders to launch the aggression on a specific date and time", the Ethiopian statement said. Reports from [words indistinct] had been placed on full alert because of renwed tension on the border with Ethiopia and in northern Somalia. General Samantar himself said in Apwech that the move stemmed from a "possible fresh push by Ethiopian troops and their allies".

The Ethiopian statement also spoke for the first time of a major clash between the armed forces of the two countries last summer when, it said, Somali troops had penetrated 30 kms (20 miles) inside Ethiopian territory through the border post off Belembel.

The invasion, aimed at destroying oil exploration equipment [words indistinct] been repulsed by Ethiopian forces, the statement said. It recalled that Somalia had trid to lay the blame on Ethiopia at the time and that it was doing the same again. The summer clashes appeared to be a reference to an outbreak of fighting in July last year between forces of the Somali Salvation Front (SSF) and Somali Government troops.

The fighting, for which Mogadishu accused Addis Ababa, occured in the central Galgadud and Mudug regions of Somalia.

Ethiopia repeatedly denied the charges [words indistinct] sole responsibility for the clashes.

The latest Ethiopian statement said recent allegations by Mogadishu of a [word indistinct] Ethiopian invasion were aimed at securing more arms from the United States and its other allies to fulfill its "expansionist designs" against Ethiopia. It was also aimed at inviting foreign intervention especially that of the U.S. and to divert world attention from moves underway at the moment to convene the 19th Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa for a third time. "This sinister move is clearly calculated in the interest of its imperialist patrons to divert attention from Africa's paramount pre-occupation for (African) unity", the statement charged.

A fresh OAU summit is scheduled here June 6-11 to resolve the current crisis in the pan-African body. Two attempts collapsed in Tripoli last year because of differences over the Western Sahara and Chadian representation.

SOMALIA

Cairo Radio Reports State of Alert in Country

NC121635 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Somali Defense Minister General Mohamed Ali Samatar has stated that his country has decided to put its armed forces in a full state of alert for fear of an imminent Ethiopian attack on the Somali border.

In a speech he delivered on the 23d anniversary of the Somali Armed Forces, Gen Samatar said that this decision was made after information became available to the Somali authorities that the Ethiopian forces, which are supported by Cuban, Libyan, and Warsaw Pact forces, are planning to launch an attack on the borders between the two countries, where violent fighting took place between the two sides last summer.

Defense Ministry Claims Ethiopian Air Attack

EA131226 Mogadishu International Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] According to a report issued by the Ministry of Defense yesterday it said at 1230 p.m. local time yesterday two Ethiopian war planes attacked (Abud Waq) in Ghel Gudut region. No casualties have been reported and the MIG-21 planes were repulsed by the air defences of the Somali Armed Forces.

Radio Halgan Reports Rebel Battle Successes

EA132208 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The 15th Gorod Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forceslaunched attacks on a base belonging to the loyalist Barre troops at (Guri Ayl) in Dusa Mareb District of Ghelgudut region. The engagement, which took place on 10 and 11 April caused heavy casualties to Barre's forces. His dispirited forces lost officers and 47 soldiers killed and many others wounded. The Barre regime forces also had two field guns, ammunition, and rations burned.

The fighters took two soldiers prisoner. The DFSS had two fighters sustain light injuries and one vehicle burned.

CHAD

France's Penne Arrives in Ndjamena 13 Apr

AB131000 Paris AFP in French 0933 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 13 Apr (AFP)—Guy Penne, French President Francois Mitterrand's special adviser on African affairs, and his assistant Jean-Christophe Mitterrand arrived in Ndjamena on Wednesday with a message from the French president to Chadian head of state Hissein Habre.

On his arrival, Mr Penne declined to make any statement, saying simply that he came to Ndjamena to examine with the Chadian authorities the ways and means of strengthening the relations between the two countries.

The special adviser to the French president, who will leave Ndjamena on Thursday, will hold talks on Wednesday afternoon with Chadian officials, notably with President Hissein Habre and Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine.

Press Agency Requests More French Fiscal Aid

AB131950 Paris AFP in French 1830 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 13 Apr (AFP)—In a commentary published on the occasion of the visit to Ndjamena on Wednesday of Guy Penne, President Francois Mitterrand's special adviser on African affairs, the official Chadian news agency, ATP, said Chadians are disappointed by the weak economic aid France has been giving for the reconstruction of their country.

ATP expressed satisfaction with the stand taken by France at the UN Security Council in favor of Chadian sovereignty over the Aouzou Strip which is the cause of a border conflict between Chad and Libya, but it added that the eocnomic aid Chad expects from France is "as vital for it as diplomatic support."

The agency pointed out that French aid to Chad amounts to only 100 million CFA francs (2,000,000 Fr) a month whereas "under past regimes" it reached the monthly sum of 1 billion CFA francs.

It called for formalizing certain commitments made by France in the framework of the reconstruction of Chad and expressed the hope that the visit of Mr Penne, who is accompanied by his deputy, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, will appease the country's leaders with regard to French aid to Chad.

Bardai: FAN 'Terrorists' Arrested in Cameroon

AB130952 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1800 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Our correspondent in Ndjamena has reported to us about a serious event that just occurred in Kousseri. The Cameroonian authorities have arrested seven FAN terrorists in that northern Cameroonian city. Led by a certain (Mahamad Koutou), the gang of terrorists, whose express mission was to liquidate the Chadian cadres who have taken refuge in that country, burst into the houses of (Ibrahim Jean), a technician with the township road construction department, and of Captain (Masangar). Neither of them were home. Alerted by neighbors of the men being looked for and the shouts of their wives, the Cameroonian police did not waste time arriving in the area and to arrest the FAN aggressors. These bandits had weapons with silencers and grenades. The case, which caused some shock in Kousseri and Ndjamena, has been transferred to higher authorities in Garoua.

Our correspondent also reports that 60 parcels of drugs on their way to Ndjamena were seized at Kousseri by the local police. The consignment of drugs was meant for consumption by [words indistinct] as was the case in Gouro. It was being transported by the devilish (Diolama Alita), who resides in Kousseri, in preparation for renewed attacks to be launched by the puppet clique in Ndjamena against the valiant fighters of the National Liberation Army [ANL]. Our correspondent also pointed out that 25 trucks are headed for Faya-Largeau. This is an important detail. These vehicles were carrying among other things a group of customs men and policemen who have been conscripted to fight in the north of the country. To this must be added the departure—still from Ndjamena—of seven other vehicles carrying 120 soldiers of the antinational forces.

Since the Gouro and (Ilouala) disasters, the reactionary clique went into a forced general mobilization which also affected the schools in the south of the country where the antinational forces decided to close down all the educational institutions, because the students have been compulsorily drafted into the puppet gang. This does not prevent people from deserting the FAN'S ranks. Several officers have left Hissein Habre. Among those who deserted was (Ala Omed) who preferred to go into exile.

Our permanent correspondent informs us that the reactionary clique of Hissein Habre did not hesitate to execute seven deserting fighters, in front of the residence of (Abderaman Musa), in the (Roko) area. At the same time in the (Marian Danso) area, the torturer of the Chadian people, Habre, ordered the execution of four soliders for refusing to fight against their ANL brothers.

BENIN

Report on Dinner for Polish Foreign Minister

AB122158 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] A farewell dinner was organized yesterday at the Aledjo Hotel in honor of the Polish foreign minister who was concluding his visit to our country. Comrade Stefan Olszowski and his delegation have just concluded a 3-day visit to the People's Republic of Benin. In his speech on the occasion, the Beninese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Comrade Tiamiou Adjibade, pointed out that the visit by Comrade Stefan Olszowski was the first to be paid by a Polish foreign minister to the People's Republic of Benin. He later stated that our country shared with Poland the strong desire and the hope for world tranquility which will enable it to devote its efforts to human progress and to the well-being of millions of men, women, and children who are suffering from hunger, misery, disease, and illiteracy.

For his part, the Polish foreign minister first conveyed his thanks to the entire Beninese people for the warm welcome accorded him and his delegation. He expressed his satisfaction in noting the changes that have taken place in our country within the framework of our path of socialism.

GHANA

Rawlings Meets New National Defense Committee

AB130658 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, yesterday had an informal meeting with the new members of the National Defense Committee at the castle, Osu. The meeting was to afford the chairman the opportunity to know the members and discuss some of the burning issues facing the country and find out ways of solving them. Flt Lt Rawlings reminded them that as focal points of judgement and consciousness in the society, they must have a sense of knowledge as their actions will influence the society. He said that with a sense of discipline and creativity, most of the wrongs that were committed in the past could have been avoided. Flt Lt Rawlings attributed some of the past mistakes to lack of moral discipline.

Present was the new PNDC secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee.

Receives OAU Secretary General

AB131835 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The OAU secretary general, Edem Kojo, today called on the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, at the castle, Osu, to brief him on some of the problems facing the organization. Among the issues discussed were the 19th OAU Summit Conference scheduled for Addis Ababa in June, the Namibian independence issue, and the nationalist war in southern Africa.

Edem Kojo later told newsmen that it is a pity there has not been any serious progress toward the implementation of the UN Resolution 435 of 1978 on the inalienable right to independence for Namibia. The secretary general, however, hoped the summit would find solutions to these problems.

PNDC Announces Steps To Reduce Food Shortage

AB122127 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] The government says it has set in motion a plan on several fronts to reduce the acute shortage of food in the country. As part of the plan adopted in the wake of growing public concern, existing stocks of food locked up in the hinterland are being located and moved to the areas of greatest shortage. Orders for imported foodstuffs have been confirmed and are expected to arrive shortly. Further orders are also in the processing line.

More food aid has been pledged by donor countries in response to the government's request. The government's policy on increased food production is being vigorously implemented to enable the nation to attain self-sufficiency. Explaining further, the statement said that the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has charged the Air Force to do an immediate aerial survey to confirm locked up stocks of local foodstuffs for evacuation to the most needy areas. The evacuation exercise will, however, not jeopardize the needs of the producing localities.

Purchases expected imminently by the Ghana National Procurement Agency include 30,000 metric tons of maize, first consignment of 10,000 metric tons of rice which will be followed by a further 10,000 metric tons, 6,000 metric tons of fish, 2,000 metric tons of meat, and 25,000 metric tons of wheat. These will start arriving from the end of April.

Meanwhile, contracts have been confirmed for further orders to ensure that the country's needs for the next 6 months are met. The PNDC is aware that these purchases and orders can only provide the minimum requirements to see the country through the current lean season since foreign exchange constraints do not permit the purchase of larger quantities. Therefore, the remaining quantities required are being sought from donor countries from both the East and West as well as through our existing bilateral agreement channels.

At the instance of the United Nations Development Program resident representative, the UN secretary general has also appointed a team to assess further requirements and the team is expected within a few days. Aid requirements from the various agencies of the United Nations have been assessed at 280,000 metric tons of cereals and some of this is already on its way.

While these measures are being taken to deal with the immediate emergency, every encouragement is being given to the agricultural sector to maximize production during the current farming season. For example, the distribution of agricultural inputs has

been decentralized to ensure that all areas receive their requirements, and on time. Yellow maize being imported for poultry feed will be milled and processed by the Tema Food Complex Corporation for direct distribution to poultry farmers to prevent its being put onto the market for human consumption. This will relieve pressure on maize meant for human consumption.

All the measures mentioned above depend on effective transportation. The government has already taken delivery of 12,500 heavy duty tires from the Republic of China which are being distributed to the regions to ensure the effective evacuation and distribution of local and imported supplies. A further 12,000 of other sizes are expected soon from Italy. The statement further explained that contrary to speculations from certain quarters that the government is insensitive to the needs of the people, the PNDC wishes to assure the nation that effective steps are being taken to contain the crisis brought about by the combination of economic problems, the unexpected influx of returnees, and a series of natural disasters, such as the long drought and bush fires raging through the whole of west Africa.

Rather than make [word indistinct] promises, the government has waited until these positive measures enumerated above can be announced in order to assure the nation of its deep concern.

LIBERIA

Sudan, Guinea-Bissau Leaders' Press Conferences

Numayri Predeparture Remarks

AB131658 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's predeparture press interview on 13 April 1983 at Monrovia's Roberts International Airport—live]

[Text] [Question] President Numayri, the last timeyou were in the country was some 4 years ago. Now that you areback, how do you assess Liberia's achievement now, especiallysince the government of the People's Redemption Council cameto power?

[Answer] Before I answer this question, I would like tothank my brother and friend, Commander in Chief Samuel Doe,for giving me this chance to visit Liberia after the revolutionand I would like also to thank the government and the peoplefor allowing me also to see the development after the last visitI paid here which was a visit for working for the OAU. Iwould like to tell you frankly that this time I came and I couldsee the people. The first time I was here I could not see thepeople. I could see the joy on their faces. I could see how they are very pleased and they are very close to their government and their leaders. I would like to say that even before, [words indistinct] we have seen some (?students, small students). Before that, we could not see as much as we see today. Although we know that the time is very, very bad economically throughout the world, but you can see that there is development. There are some great projects for the people. We see the roads, we see the buildings for the ordinary people and the Army, for instance. I visited, I walked, I have seen for myself [words indistinct]. One may say that the masses living in the interior are very poor, but I am sure they are not poor. It is not the money that counts. It is the freedom of the people that counts better than the money, and I feel that the head of state is very, very close to the people, walking with them, talking to them and that [words indistinct]. That is how I see Liberia today because I feel the base is very confident and very strong and since we mean the base by the people, if we organize the people then we can take off very quickly in the future.

[Question] Mr President, we should now like to direct our attention to the OAU which is presently in a stalemate. Could you address yourself to the present Chadian and Polisario crisis which have created the problems, Sir?

[Answer] You see, the Chadian and Polisario problems are the kind of problem which will happen throughout the world. It is a thing which is not good for us. Some African countries,led by Libya [words indistinct], are attempting to divide Africa, and this is not good. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli tries; he tries to dismantle the African unity. He found that some countries like Sudan, Egypt,and other countries did not go to Tripoli. So this was very good for him. So he made speeches saying that the Polisario should come to the [words indistinct] conference and Chad would not be accepted in the conference. This seems as though he would like to dismantle this unity and he succeeded. But this time [words indistinct] because of Polisario, because of Chad, because we would like the unity of African countries. We are not going deep into that, but African unity is going in the future to solve all our problems [words indistinct]. We will not be the cause of the dismantling of the unity of Africa.

[Question] Speaking on the OAU of which you were chairman for 1978-1979, given the problem of the hosting of the conference in Tripoli, there is prospect of holding a conference. how would you rate the prospect of the OAU still being intact? Is Sudan going to attend the conference in Addis Ababa?

[Answer] I think that the conference should be or should start without any condition. We are to go with our problems and start working. [Passage indistinct] It is for the OAU heads of state to say who is going to be the chairman for the next year because we are in the base or the headquarters of the African unity, OAU. [passage indistinct]

The second thing is that if the Polisario or Chad or any country have got any problem, they should put it to us and we will discuss it and we go ahead with the procedure of how to solve these problems.

[Question] [Passage indistinct]

[Answer] No, Libya is a threat not to Sudan, but a threat for Africa and a threat to the security of the others.

[Question] [Words indistinct] our leader CIC [Commander in Chief] Doe made a stopover in your country while on his way to the Nonaligned and you are among two leaders who are in Liberia. What can we say this signifies for Liberian-Sudan relations? Are there any plans for a bilateral cooperation by the two?

[Answer] The Liberian and Sudanese relation is very strong and we think that it is going more and more stronger. We think that we have got a lot in common. We have got the same idea about all the problems in Africa and in the world, not because we are very near each other but because we are countries of principles. We speak about principles, [word indistinct]. In Sudan, we work for the people. Our revolution started because of the people and here it is the same; so we came together and our relation is now becoming stronger and stronger.

[Question] Thank you very much, Mr President.

President Vieira Comments

AB130958 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 0815 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira's predeparture press conference on 13 April 1983 at the Monrovia Roberts International Airport—live. Questions in English followed by French translation; answers in French followed by English translation—all questions and answers from English.]

[Text] Mr President, you have been in Liberia attending the third anniversary of the People's Redemption Council. Judging from what you saw yesterday you may have very special impressions about what you saw, especially in the turnout of the Liberian people and you would perhaps like to say them with your own words, Sir.

[Answer] First of all, I would like to extend my very sincere thanks to head of state Samuel Kanyon Doe for extending me this invitation to celebrate the third National Redemption Day with him. And secondly concerning my impressions, I have fantastic impressions. I saw yesterday a full manifestation, the full joyousness of the people in this participation. I also saw for myself the work that the government has been undertaking in order to bring happiness, prosperity, and stability to the Liberian population.

[Question] And the next question: Talking about human rights in Guinea-Bissau, which we heard about on the international scene, could you please comment, Mr President, with regard to human rights in your country, and on the freedom of the press, Sir?

[Answer] In connection with the human rights, it is in keeping with the national laws on human rights that Guinea-Bissau has been abiding. Secondly, as far as freedom of the press is concerned, this also has always been respected. You know in my country we have the court system and any person who commits a crime is referred to a particular court given the gravity of his crime.

[Question] Mr President, the future of Africa lies in the hands of young revolutionaries like you and our own Commander in Chief Doe, among others. The OAU is one organization which Africa looks up to for the future of its peace, stability, and development. At this point one can hardly tell if the OAU will survive as problems continue to be here and there. What is your own position, Sir?

[Answer] The present crisis in Africa is a principal and must be a principal preoccupation for all of us leaders of Africa. Because if this crisis is not resolved, it will profit only the superpowers. It is in this connection that the forthcoming summit in Addis Ababa in June will be a crucial moment for us to decide on the future of Africa and of course to resolve all its crises.

[Question] The Polisario insists on going. Will you go if the Polisario is present?

[Answer] Well, we in Guinea-Bissau do recognize the Polisario Front. However, the manner in which we worked in consultation in Tripoli is the same manner we must work together in Addis Ababa in order to resolve this crisis.

[Question] Thank you very much Mr President.

Leaders Depart

AB131953 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The presidents of the Democratic Republic of Sudan and Guinea-Bissau, Field Marshal Ja'far Numayri and Major Joao Bernardo Vieira left Monrovia today for their respective countries. The two African heads of state had been in Monrovia for 3 days as guests of the Liberian Government.

NIGERIA

Accra Cites Nigerian Papers on CIA Plot

AB140824 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The United States Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, has been mentioned in an alleged plot to assassinate Nigeria's opposition leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. According to Nigerian newspapers, THE TRIBUNE and the DAILY SKETCH, quoting an alleged embassy report, Chief Awolowo will be stopped from becoming president in next August elections, which he is among the six candidates.

The papers, owned by the opposition Unity Party of Nigeria, also quoted the alleged embassy report as saying that the U.S. policy cannot accomodate Chief Awolowo in control of affairs in Nigeria.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Olszowski, Foreign Envoys

MB140950 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Yesterday at the Futungo de Belas in Luanda, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the party and the republic, received separately the ambassadors accredited to Angola from Sweden, (Leiss Segestran), and the PLO, (Abou Faede). During these audiences, the Angolan head of state received personal messages from Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Also, yesterday at the Futungo de Belas, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos received Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski.

Talks With Polish Delegation

MB131317 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] The official talks between the Polish foreign affairs delegation headed by Stefan Olszowski and a delegation led by our country's foreign minister, Paulo Jorge, continue in Luanda this afternoon. The talks are expected to last until later this afternoon since the visit of the Polish delegation ends today.

The head of Polish diplomacy, who is touring a number of African countries, is visiting Angola for the first time since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1975.

ANGOP Reports Olszowski's Visit

AB131833 Luanda ANGOP in French 1440 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Luanda, 13 Apr (ANGOP)—Last night at a dinner offered in honor of his Polish counterpart, Stefan Olszowski, Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister Paulo Jorge expressed his conviction that the Polish leaders will be able to overcome the current crisis, which according to him, was created by the Western powers.

Proposing the toast on the occasion, the Angolan foreign affairs minister described the international situation as "tense" and characterized by multiple conflicts, which according to him, were caused by imperialist powers under the leadership of the United States.

The Angolan foreign affairs minister added that this tension is also felt in southern Africa where the situation "constitutes a threat to international peace and security following the Pretoria regime's constant aggressions against the frontline states." As a result of this, the Angolan foreign affairs minister said "the people of Angola are paying very dearly —in human lives and materials—for the liberation of the Namibian people."

Paulo Jorge then vehemently criticized the American decision to install two new medium-range missiles in Europe. To him, this "will create tension in world relations." He therefore expressed his support for the position taken by the socialist community in favor of detente and general and complete disarmament. Continuing, he said, "We cannot stop being preoccupied, especially at this time when we are experiencing an unlimited arms race and when the possibility of a nuclear war is hovering over the world." Touching on relations between Angola and Poland, he noted a marked development in all areas, but stressed that their cooperation must be based on "mutual advantages and a harmonious development."

In his reply, the Polish foreign affairs minister commended the efforts made by Angola concerning its support for the liberation struggle in Namibia and said that his country was also at Angola's side. Then he added, "We demanded and still demand the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and Namibia on the basis of United Nations resolutions."

Just like his Angolan counterpart, he established the responsibility of imperialism for the renewed outbreak of tension in the Middle East, in Central America, and in southern Africa. Referring to the current situation in his country, the Polish minister categorically stressed that "Poland does not and will never yield to imperialist designs."

It must be recalled that the Polish foreign affairs minister arrived in Luanda yesterday within the framework of a brief 24-hour visit and is expected to leave this city later tonight. Still within the framework of this visit, he had a series of official talks yesterday with Angolan authorities. According to well-informed sources, these talks were dominated by the situation in southern Africa and in Poland.

The Polish foreign minister will again meet the Angolan authorities this afternoon for a second round of talks at the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MPLA-Labor Party Secretary De Almeida Visits GDR

AB131244 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for ideological affairs, Comrade Roberto de Almeida, is in Berlin, the GDR, to participate in the international conference dedicated to Karl Marx and the struggle for peace and social progress.

Roberto de Almeida is to participate in the international conference in representation of the MPLA-Labor Party. The Angolan delegation to the conference also includes the director of the Department of Propaganda and Political Education for Information, (Nenev Pizzaro).

LESOTHO

Maseru Reports Visit by Kenya's, OAU'S Ouko

MB140912 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The special envoy of the chairman of the Organization of African Unity, who is also the foreign minister of Kenya and the

current chairman of the OAU Council of Ministers, Dr Robert Ouko, says his visit to Lesotho is in a spirit of solidarity with his majesty the king, the right honorable prime minister, the government,and the people of Lesotho, following unprovoked, brutal attacks on Lesotho by South Africa and its stooges. Dr Ouko arrived in Lesotho on Tuesday.

Addressing a gathering of Basotho at Hendrik's Drift in the Butha Buthe district yesterday, Dr Ouko said he was sent by the president of Kenya, who is also the current chairman of the OAU, His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, to come and inspect areas that were recently attacked in Lesotho by South Africa.

Dr Ouko said Lesotho has the entire support of the OAU in her resistance against apartheid in all its forms. Dr Ouko said it was gratifying to note how Lesotho has developed since his last visit here 10 years ago, despite serious obstacles deliberately placed in her way by the racist regime across the border.

Dr Ouko was accompanied by the minister of cooperatives and rural development, the Honorable V.M. Makhele; the acting Kenyan high commissioner to Lesotho, His Excellency Mr N. Mahugu; and the district coordinator for Butha Buthe, (Ntate Mutlatle Moshesh).

SAPA: 88 Students Educated in Communist Countries

MB131311 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1653 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Maseru, April 12, SAPA—A total of 88 Basotho students had been sent to communist countries for further studies, according to figures relaesed today in the National Assembly by the minister of education, sport and culture, Mr B.A. Tlelase.

According to an SABC report, Mr Tlelase was answering a question from a member of the ruling party.

The highest number, 48, are studying in Russia. Twenty- three are in Cuba, two in Germany, 10 in Poland, and one in Yugoslavia. They are following courses in geology, electrical engineering, civil aviation, agriculture, tourism, journalism,and mining.

BCP Member on Condemnation of RSA Aggression

MB131359 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] A member of the opposition Basotholand Congress Party [BCP] in the National Assembly, Mr (Kgasane) says that the nation should stand united in condemning the acts of aggression perpetrated by South Africa.

Speaking on the motion calling for the support of the prime minister's statement which was presented in Parliament 2 days ago, Mr (Kgasane) said that it is clear that South Africa's onslaught is not only against a particular political party in the country, but on the whole nation. He said that in view of this fact, it is imperative that more than any other time the Basotho should be united. Mr (Kgasane) said that the acts of sabotage taking place in the Butha Buthe district are a clear indication that the South African target is the mineral rich area in that district.

He actually rejected the ammendment based by Mr (Mogodu) on this motion. The motion was also supported by Miss M. (Mokgose) of the BCP.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Returns from Berlin Conference 13 Apr

MB131837 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] President Samora Machel returned to Maputo today after taking part in an international conference on the theme, Karl Marx and our times in the GDR. More than 100 high-level delegations from communist parties and other revolutionary movements and organizations attended the conference. President Samora's delegation included the minister of agriculture, Sergio Vieira, who is a member of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, and Jose Julio Andrade, director of the President's Office.

The president told the conference that it is the worldwide struggle for peace that will prevent war. He added that imperialism is increasing its aid to facist and Nazi regimes which oppress the working classes, and imperialism is at the root cause of war.

Swazi Deputy Prime Minister Pledges Cooperation

MB131902 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Swaziland, Benjamin Nsibandze, has reaffirmed his country's commitment to the success of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC. Speaking in Maputo this afternoon at the opening of talks between Mozambican and Swazi delegations, Mr Nsibandze said joint efforts were essential to check the intentions of the South African minority regime. Mr Nsibandze added that Mozambique and Swaziland must find ways of resolving problems affecting them, particularly the illegal traffic of goods to and from Swaziland across the border between the two countries.

The Mozambican delegation is headed by the minister of the interior, Mariona Matsinhe. Mr Matsinhe said the two sides are to take stock of bilateral cooperation and find ways conducive to developing this cooperation. He added that Mozambique was interested in expanding areas of cooperation with Swaziland.

The Swazi deputy prime minister and his 10-man delegation are going to be in Mozambique until Friday when they are expected to leave for Mbabane. Tomorrow the Swazi delegation is to tour the installations of the cement factory, and the Texlom textile factory on the outskirts of Maputo

Maize Distribution To Begin 'This Week'

MB141000 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The distribution of maize donated to our country by the World Food Program is expected to begin this week in Moamba District. Officials charged with the distribution say people's involvement in the distribution is positive. For about 15 days now, the residents of Moamba District are involved in unloading maize from the railway wagons to store houses in the district headquarters and other locations. The maize, which is being unloaded from the CFM Railway Station in Moamba, has already reached the locations of Ressano Garcia, Sabie, (Tessane), Malangane, and Moamba District Headquarters.

Maputo on U.S. Plans for Cruise Missiles in RSA

MB140833 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Pretoria authorities are building a missile platform with an area of 38,000 square hectares somewhere in Cape Province to accomodate U.S. cruise missiles. The construction of the platform was previously to have been somewhere in eastern Transvaal, but the Pretoria regime decided to transfer the project to Cape Province for what it called security reasons. Plans for the installation of cruise missiles in South Africa are contained in a secret agreement signed between the United States and the racist and Zionist regimes of Pretoria and Tel Aviv.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha, Labor Party Chairman To Meet

MB131554 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, and leader of the Labor Party, the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, are to have talks in Cape Town tomorrow regarding the impending referendum. Mr Botha announced last month that the whites would be asked in a referendum what they thought of the government's new constitutional proposals. The main points of the proposals were a president with executive powers and that whites, coloreds, Asians, and blacks were to have their own autonomous local authorities. The meeting tomorrow came after representations from Reverend Hendrickse said that a referendum on the new dispensation should also be held among the colored population.

ZAMBIA

Economic Protocol Signed With Bulgaria

MB131845 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] Zambia and Bulgaria have signed a protocol of agreement in the fields of agriculture, industry, construction, trade, and finance. Chairman of Economic and Finance Committee of the Central Committee, Mr Elijah Mudena, signed on behalf of the Zambian [word indistinct], while member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Mr Ognyan Doynov, signed for his country. Both sides agreed to carry out instructions relating to the protocol during the implementation program for the benefit of the two countries.

CC Member Meets Zhivkov

MB131111 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] A member of the Central Committee, Elijah Mudenda, has called on the Bulgarian president, Todor Zhivkov, and delivered a special letter from President Kaunda. According to a dispatch from Moscow, Mr Mudenda, who is the chairman of the Economic and Finance Subcommittee, was accompanied by Zambian ambassador to Bulgaria, Joshua Siyolwe.

Mr Mudenda is at the head of the Zambian delegation visiting Bulgaria for the fourth session of the Zambian and Bulgarian joint commission in pursuance of the agreement reached between the two countries for economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperations.

ZIMBABWE

HERALD:'Serious Threat' to RF's Existence

MB131603 Harare THE HERALD in English 9 Apr 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Turning Point"]

[Text] The outcome of the Bulawayo South by-election is not a simple defeat for the Republican Front [RF] but a serious threat to the party's own existence. After winning every by-election, the defeat in Bulawayo has changed everything, and nothing will be the same again for the RF.

The die has been cast. With three more RF MPs and two senators expected to announce their resignations soon, the RF will be faced with by-elections which, because of Bulawayo South, they can never expect to win easily.

As it is the RF has lost 75 percent of its MPs elected during the general election. Most have become Independents, some have retired to stay in the country or go to South Africa.

Of the 10 RF MPs in the House, only five are from the original group. The others have come in through by-elections which the RF won through appealing to the fears of the white voters.

The Bulawayo voters have finally called the RF's bluff.

They are not prepared to live in the past. They have found out that it is only through accepting the fact that majority rule is here to stay that they can hope to survive and live in peace.

Ian Smith has done his best to discredit the Independents before. There is no reason why he should not try to do the same now. As far as he is concerned anybody who does not agree with him is either a traitor, a turn-coat or a puppet.

The fact remains, however, that the Independents to a large extent share the same concerns with Ian Smith. And they are totally agreed on the point that minority interests must be safeguarded.

Their only differences are in the mode in which this should be achieved and the relations the white minority should have with the black majority.

If the Independents' desire for co-operation with blacks and their acceptance of majority rule makes them traitors and puppets in the eyes of Ian Smith and his followers then so be it.